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BENGALURU
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NEARBY

Sir M. Visvesvaraya terminal to finally open

BENGALURU

After a long wait of over a year, the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal at Baiyappanahalli (SMVB) will finally be opened for commercial operations from June 6. Initially, the South Western Railway (SWR) will start operating three pairs of trains from the point.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Making Malleswaram walkable for seniors

BENGALURU

Malleswaram Urban Living Lab (M-ULL), a collaboration between Malleswaram Social and Sensing Local Foundation, after a successful campaign of street wall art transforming the old neighbourhood, has now taken up the initiative to transform conservancy lanes into walkable streets for senior citizens.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Parents hit hard as schools hike fees

BENGALURU

After two years of the pandemic, when classes were held online and government regulated school fee by announcing rebates, the academic year of 2022-23 has hit parents hard. While schools have hiked fees, van fee and private tuition fees have also shot up.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

India to join Biden's new trade initiative for Indo-Pacific region

U.S. says framework will strengthen economic ties, but won't be a free trade deal

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Collective move: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese premier Fumio Kishida, participating at the IPEF launch event in Tokyo on Monday. • AP

India signalled its readiness to be part of a new economic initiative led by the U.S. for the region, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined U.S. President Joseph Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and leaders of 10 countries, who participated virtually, for the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in Tokyo on Monday. The negotiations for the IPEF, which will begin on Tuesday, are expected to centre around four main pillars, including trade, supply chain resiliency, clean energy and decarbonisation, and taxes and anti-corruption measures. The grouping, which includes seven out of 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), all four Quad countries, and New Zealand, represents about 40% of global GDP.

"India will work together with [other IPEF countries] to build an inclusive and flexible Indo-Pacific Economic Framework," Mr. Modi said at the launch of the new initiative, that comes three years after India walked out of the 15-nation RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership).

"I believe that resilient supply chains must be based on three-pillar foundation of trust, transparency and timeliness and I am sure that this framework will make these pillars strong and lead to peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," he added.

U.S. officials made it clear that the IPEF would not be a "free trade agreement", nor are countries expected to discuss reducing tariffs or increasing market access. In that sense, the IPEF would not seek to replace the 11-nation CPTPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) that the U.S. quit in 2017, or the RCEP, which China, and all of the other IPEF countries (minus the U.S.) are a part of. Three ASEAN countries considered closer to China – Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos – are not members of the IPEF, however.

Briefing the media, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said that the U.S. would seek to attract businesses investing in China away towards IPEF. "I would say, especially as businesses are beginning to increasingly look for alternatives to China, the countries in the Indo-Pacific Framework will be more reliable partners for U.S. businesses."

US Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai also said that the IPEF would be different from the original Trans-Pacific partnership as the U.S. was "unable to deliver on the plan", indicating hurdles in the U.S. Congress, where any trade concessions are seen in an increasingly unfavourable light.

U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan also said that the IPEF was intended to boost U.S. manufacturing. "The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, or IPEF, is part of President Biden's commitment to putting American families and workers at the centre of our economic and foreign policy, while strengthening our ties with allies and partners for the purpose of increasing shared prosperity," Mr. Sullivan said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

U.S. to defend Taiwan against China: Biden

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
REUTERS
TOKYO

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Monday he would be willing to use force to defend Taiwan against Chinese aggression. The comment seemed to stretch the limits of the ambiguous U.S. policy towards the self-ruled island.

While Washington is required by law to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself, it has long followed a policy of "strategic ambiguity" on whether it would intervene militarily to protect Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack.

After Mr. Biden made the remark at a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo, an aide said the President's statement represented no change in the long-standing American stance to the island that China claims as its own.

A reporter asked Mr. Biden if the U.S. would defend Taiwan if it were attacked. "Yes. That's the commitment we made," he answered. "We agree with a one-China policy. We've signed on to it and all the intended agreements made from there. But the idea that, that it (Taiwan) can be taken by force, just taken by force, is just not, is just not appropriate."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

India to be the leader of green hydrogen: Puri

Delegation led by Piyush Goyal at Davos

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Hardeep Singh Puri

India will emerge as the leader of green hydrogen, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday. Mr. Puri made the remarks while attending the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, where he is part of the Indian delegation led by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

"India is moving faster than any other country towards a green transition. We are taking advantage of the current energy crisis to accelerate this transition," Mr. Puri said at a breakfast interaction with members of the Indian diaspora. He said the current government had moved fast on vaccine production, adding, "Whatever vaccine manufacturing capacity India had earlier almost got dismantled during 2004-2014 [UPA government]."

The Davos event is taking place in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine crisis, which marks return of war to Europe after several decades.

The Minister's comments reflect the commitments that India has been making on the sustainable energy front as Western economies are keen to reduce dependence on Russian energy supply. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been highlighting India's green hydrogen potential.

This year marks the 25th anniversary since India began to appear at the World Economic Forum at Davos. To mark the special moment, the India Lounge at Davos has six sessions covering, digital economy, energy transformation and building unicorns. One of the sessions will include the opportunity for infrastructure asset monetisation pegged at $80 billion.

Apart from Mr. Puri, Mr. Goyal and Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the delegation includes Chief Ministers and senior Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Mr. Goyal met Alexander R. Wynaendts, chairman-elect, Deutsche Bank. "Discussed how the financial institution can further complement the government's sustainable growth agenda," Mr. Goyal said.

It's now a fashion to make charges against judiciary: SC

'The stronger the judge, the worse the allegations'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the stronger a judge turns out to be, the worse become the allegations levelled at her or him.

A Vacation Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud made the oral remark while hearing an appeal by a lawyer who acted contemptuously by obstructing the execution of a non-bailable warrant against him issued by the Madras High Court.

The Bench said it had become somewhat of a "fashion" to make allegations against the judiciary.

"The stronger the judge, the worse the allegations. This is happening in Bombay, rampant in Uttar Pradesh and now even [in] Madras," said Justice Chandrachud.

The court did not intervene on behalf of the lawyer, who was sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment and debarment for a year in the contempt case. "Judges are assaulted. There is no protection for judges in the district judiciary, sometimes not even a *lathi*-wielding policeman. This is happening across the country. You cannot level wanton allegations," the Bench remarked.

'Grave concern'

In a recent address, the Chief Justice of India had flagged the increasing attacks on judges, both physically and on social media, an "area of grave concern".

"These attacks appear to be sponsored and synchronised. The law enforcing agencies, particularly the Central agencies, need to deal with such malicious attacks effectively. The governments are expected to create a secure environment so that the judges and judicial officers can function fearlessly," Chief Justice N.V. Ramana had stressed.

Under a cloud

Mosquito menace: As part of preventive measures to check the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, a health worker is carrying out fogging at a makeshift camp in the flood-affected Morigaon district of Assam on Monday. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

Survivor in actor assault case moves HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The survivor in the 2017 actor sexual assault has approached the Kerala High Court seeking to restrain the Crime Branch from filing its final report in a case related to conspiracy allegedly hatched by actor Dileep, one of the accused in the assault case, and others to murder the investigation officers of the case.

The survivor alleged that Dileep had influenced politicians in the ruling front and attempted to derail the probe and prematurely wind it up. She wanted to stop Crime Branch's action until the State Forensic Science Laboratory examined the memory card and the police receive a report on it.

FULL REPORT ▸ PAGE 5

Varanasi court to set order of hearing today

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A district court in Varanasi, hearing the Gyanvapi mosque dispute as per the directions of the Supreme Court, said on Monday that it would decide on Tuesday which to consider and hear first – either the report of the commission that conducted a video survey of the mosque premises or the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's plea challenging the maintainability of the suit by Hindu plaintiffs.

In response to the civil suit filed by five Hindu women seeking permission to pray at a Hindu shrine behind the western wall of the Gyanvapi mosque premises all year round, the Masjid Committee has argued that the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, specifically bars their suit and thus disqualifies it.

The committee on Monday argued that their prayer should be heard first in isolation from the suit filed by the plaintiffs while the Hindu plaintiffs argued that the two must be considered together along with the report of the video survey.

Mathura case

In the Mathura case, a court asked Shahi Idgah mosque's management committee and others to file objections to a plea for appointing a court commissioner to survey the mosque and verify the temple's signs. Civil Judge Jyoti Singh invited the respondents' objection by July 1, the next date of the hearing of the suit for the relocation of the mosque from near the temple.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

World may have lost 11.2 crore jobs: ILO

Gender gap in India's employment data finds mention in the 'world of work' report

A.M. JIGEESH
NEW DELHI

The "world of work" is being buffeted by multiple crises, says the ninth edition of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Monitor. The report says that after significant gains during the last quarter of 2021, the number of hours worked globally dropped in the first quarter of 2022, to 3.8% below the employment situation before the pandemic. About 11.2 crore jobs might have lost between this period, according to the report.

The gender gap in India's employment scenario is mentioned in the report on the "world of work". The report said both India and lower-middle-income countries excluding India experienced a deterioration of the gender gap in work hours in the second quarter of 2020. "However, because the initial level of hours worked by women in India was very low, the reduction in hours worked by women in India has only a weak influence on the aggregate for lower-middle-income countries. In contrast, the reduction in hours worked by men in India has a large impact on the aggregates," the report mentions.

Explaining the data, an ILO official told *The Hindu* that for every 100 women at work prior to the pandemic, 12.3 women would have lost their job as an average through the entire period considered by the report. The official added that, in contrast, for every 100 men, the equivalent figure would have been 7.5. "Hence, the pandemic seems to have exacerbated the already substantial gender imbalances in employment participation in the country," the official said.

Global factors

The fresh lockdowns in China, the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, and the global rise in the prices of food and fuel are cited as the main reasons for the findings. The ILO urged its member countries to take a humane approach to address the situation. Financial turbulence, potential debt distress and global supply chain disruption points at a growing risk of a further deterioration in hours worked in 2022, as well as a broader impact on global labour markets in the months to come, the report said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Council polls: Congress picks Nagaraju Yadav, Abdul Jabbar

Choices come as a surprise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Throwing a surprise, the Congress on Monday picked M. Nagaraju Yadav, KPCC spokesperson, and K. Abdul Jabbar, former MLC, as its candidates for the biennial elections to the Legislative Council from the Legislative Assembly constituency in the State, ignoring claims of many seniors in the party.

Meanwhile, the Janata Dal (Secular) and BJP were yet to announce the names till the time of going to the press. The issue of giving ticket to B.Y. Vijayendra, son of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, is turning contentious in the BJP, leading to delay, said party sources.

Mr. Nagaraju Yadav, a former chairman of BMTC during the Congress tenure, is said to be a KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar's loyalist. Mr. Jabbar, currently chairman of KPCC Minority Cell, served as the MLC earlier, and is close to both Mr. Shivakumar and the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, Siddaramaiah. Incidentally, Muslim leaders, including legislators, had petitioned the Congress, seeking Mr. Jabbar's candidature in the Council election.

The move is seen as an attempt to woo the dominant OBCs and Muslim community ahead of BBMP and next year's Assembly elections, as Mr. Nagaraju belongs to the Golla community.

Mr. Siddaramaiah had favoured former MLC Ivan D'Souza and former Minister M.R. Seetharam, sources in the party said.

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THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Sluggish growth

3.5 In percentage, the projected economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2021-22, according to Icra ratings. Growth may have slowed on the back of higher commodity prices on margins, the decline in wheat yields, and on higher base, the agency said. Icra's Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said Q4 was a challenging quarter, with the Omicron-fuelled third wave of COVID-19 arresting the momentum in contact-intensive services and pervasive pressure on margins from higher commodity prices. PTI

Trade pact

12 The number of countries that have joined the U.S. in the Indo-Pacific trade pact. The White House said that this will help the U.S. work more closely with Asian economies on issues including supply chains, digital trade, clean energy, and anti-corruption efforts. The signatories joining the U.S. in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework are Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Along with the U.S., they represent 40% of the world GDP. PTI

Fall in steel prices

10-15 In percentage, by which steel prices are expected to fall due to duty-related measures taken by the government, according to industry body Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC). "The government's decision to remove import duty on raw materials for steel would lower the cost for the domestic steel industry ...(and) increase/imposition of export duty on iron ores and a host of steel intermediaries would increase the domestic availability of key industry inputs," EEPC India Chairman said. PTI

Loss due to duty cuts

500 In ₹ crore, the loss to the Chhatisgarh exchequer following the reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel by the Centre according to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. "The revenue collection through VAT (which is levied on ad valorem basis) will also dip automatically. State officials have informed me that we will suffer a loss of around ₹500 crore (annually)," the CM said. Baghel said that he has been demanding the BJP-led Centre to withdraw the cess it started imposing on petrol and diesel since last year. PTI

Fuel aid to Sri Lanka

40,000 In metric tonnes, the petrol delivered by India to debt-ridden Sri Lanka as it grapples with its worst economic crisis. India extended an additional $500 million credit line to Sri Lanka last month to help the country import fuel as it has been struggling to pay for imports after its foreign exchange reserves plummeted sharply in recent times, causing a devaluation of its currency and spiralling inflation. This was India's fourth consignment of fuel. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The cryptocurrency price fall

Is inflation the only reason why cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin had such a steep downward movement?

THE GIST

- Bitcoin, one of the most dominant cryptocurrency, is down more than 50% from an all-time high price of $68,000, which it achieved last November. The prices of almost all cryptocurrencies have seen a similar steep downward movement over the last month.
- The inflation which has come about due to the war in Ukraine and the subsequent disruptions to the global supply chain is one of the main reasons for this downward trend.
- The Bitcoin value also got impacted by the fate of a stablecoin called TerraUSD. On May 23, TerraUSD was trading below seven cents and had tried selling its Bitcoin reserves to keep its cryptocurrency peg intact. That, among other things, could have played a part in the Bitcoin value slide.

SRIRAM SRINIVASAN

The story so far: Bitcoin, the most dominant cryptocurrency around, is down more than 50% from an all-time high price of $68,000, which it achieved just last November. It has, in fact, lost a fourth of its value in the last 30 days. Bitcoin isn't alone. The prices of almost all cryptocurrencies have seen a similar steep downward movement over the last month. Volatile price movements aren't new to the cryptocurrency world but this time the plunge seems to have revealed new insights and vulnerabilities of the market.

Is the Bitcoin price fluctuation a new phenomenon?

It isn't. Its history is filled with many instances of big price falls and big price rises within a short period of time. Last year, after hitting a new peak of over $63,000 in April, its value more than halved by June. China's crackdown on cryptocurrency mining operations was seen as the main reason for this fall. The April price it reached was itself a massive eight to nine times of its year-ago value. So steep was the climb. The new peak in November followed.

Cryptocurrencies, which are perceived amongst the riskier investments, are weighed down in such an environment where investors want safety more than anything else

Over the years, speculators have flooded in to take advantage of such volatility. It should be noted that the downside risks come swift and steep. At the same time, this inherent volatility effectively rules it out as a medium of exchange which is something that researchers have repeatedly pointed out. All these and the fact that cryptocurrencies are designed to bypass the official monetary mechanism of any country make most governments wary of them.

What's new about this phase of the cryptocurrency price fall?

The context is, of course, new. This big sell-off phase has come about at a time when the war in Ukraine and the subsequent disruptions to the global supply chain have resulted in record-high inflation throughout the world. Inflation in the U.K., for instance, is at its highest levels in 40 years. To tackle such conditions, many central banks have gone in for interest rate hikes. Early this month, the U.S. Federal Reserve increased its benchmark interest rate by half a percentage point, the biggest hike in 22 years.

"These aren't normal times," said the 2022 Midyear Economic Outlook report of Morgan Stanley. "Persistent inflation, supply chain constraints, the continuing pandemic and war in Ukraine signal a significant slowdown in global GDP growth this year but not a worldwide recession."

Cryptocurrencies, which are perceived amongst the riskier investments, are weighed down in such an environment where investors want safety more than anything else. Cryptocurrencies, interestingly, were promoted as those that could weather these storms. A recent article in *The New York Times* said, "Bitcoin was conceived more than a decade ago as 'digital gold,' a long-term store of value that would resist broader economic trends and provide a hedge against inflation. But Bitcoin's crashing price over the last month shows that vision is a long way from reality. Instead, traders are increasingly treating the cryptocurrency like just another speculative tech investment." It has in recent times behaved more in the lines of the technology stocks at Nasdaq and less like gold, which is seen as a store of value. But a vulnerability in the cryptocurrency ecosystem also played its part in the recent price crash.

What vulnerability was revealed during this crash?

The Bitcoin value also got impacted by what's essentially a sub-story in the entire episode – the fate of a stablecoin called TerraUSD. Stablecoins are a type of cryptocurrency that seek to hold their value steady, even if the Bitcoins of the world have a rocky journey. This, they do by pegging to a currency such as the dollar. TerraUSD's idea was to maintain a value of $1.

The way it maintains its peg is through an algorithmic solution, wherein if it drops below $1, a trader is encouraged to receive a 'sister' token called Luna at a discounted price in exchange. The TerraUSD, for which Luna was exchanged, then goes out of circulation. The supply falls, and the peg to $1 is achieved again. That's how it works in theory. What happened in reality is that the peg was lost, and the investors began to pull out, and both the stablecoins had a free fall.

On May 23, TerraUSD was trading below seven cents (it was 99 cents on May 9, a day before the fall began). Luna was trading at $0.0002044, very close to zero. The Luna Foundation Guard, which backs the Terra ecosystem, had tried selling its Bitcoin reserves to keep its cryptocurrency peg intact. That, among other things, could also have played a part in the Bitcoin value slide.

How are governments reacting to this?

Governments are reacting by talking about regulating stablecoins. *CNBC* quoted a U.K. government spokesperson as saying that "The government has been clear that certain stablecoins are not suitable for payment purposes as they share characteristics with unbacked cryptoassets." The U.K., the report said, is planning to "bring stablecoins within the scope of electronic payments regulation."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen was quoted as saying in a Congressional hearing, "I wouldn't characterise it at this scale as a real threat to financial stability but they're growing very rapidly."

While the crypto market seems to have stabilised after the big fall early this month, the future course of the prices is anybody's guess. The global inflation risk has still not gone away, nor is the Federal Reserve monetary tightening over.

EXPLAINER

The devastation in Dima Hasao and its after-effects

How important is the railway line, which straddles the tertiary mountain range between the Brahmaputra and Barak River basins, for trade and travel?

THE GIST

- Disaster has struck Dima Hasao after incessant heavy rainfall which severely affected the 170 km railway line connecting Lumding in the Brahmaputra Valley's Hojai district and Badarpur in the Barak Valley's Karimganj district.
- Dima Hasao is the geographical link to a vast region comprising southern Assam's Barak Valley, parts of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Moreover, the railway track is vital for shipping goods to and from Bangladesh's Chittagong port via Tripura's border points.
- A project to convert the metre gauge track to broad gauge, completed in 2015, came under scrutiny through a 2009-10 audit report which revealed that the project had been undertaken without proper planning.

RAHUL KARMAKAR

The story so far: Disaster struck Dima Hasao, central Assam's hill district, in mid-May after incessant heavy rainfall. The 170 km railway line connecting Lumding in the Brahmaputra Valley's Hojai district and Badarpur in the Barak Valley's Karimganj district was severely affected. The Assam government and Railway Ministry's assessments said the district suffered a loss of more than ₹1,000 crore, but ecologists say the damage could be irreversibly higher.

How severe has the rain been in Assam?

Assam is used to floods, sometimes even four times a year, resultant landslides and erosion. But the pre-monsoon showers this year have been particularly severe on Dima Hasao, one of three hill districts in the State. Landslips have claimed four lives and damaged roads. The impact has been most severe on the arterial railway, which was breached at 58 locations leaving the track hanging in several places. The New Haflong station catering to district headquarters Haflong bore the brunt of nature's fury when a passenger train, whose passengers were evacuated in time, was almost buried in mud. The disruption of train services, unlikely to be restored soon, has cut off the flood-hit Barak Valley, parts of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Train carriages are seen toppled, following a landslide at Dima Hasao on May 16. • AFP

Why is the railway in focus post-disaster?

Dima Hasao straddles the Barail, a tertiary mountain range between the Brahmaputra and Barak River basins. The district is on the Dauki fault (the prone-to-earthquakes geological fractures between two blocks of rocks) straddling Bangladesh and parts of the northeast. British engineers were said to have factored in the fragility of the hills to build the railway line over 16 years by 1899. The end result was an engineering marvel 221 km long over several bridges and through 37 tunnels, laid along the safer sections of the hills. A project to convert the metre gauge track to broad gauge was undertaken in 1996 but the work was completed only by March 2015 because of geotechnical constraints and extremist groups. The broad-gauge track was realigned to be straighter, but a 2009-10 audit report revealed that the project had been undertaken without proper planning and visualisation of the soil strata behaviour.

Citing an engineering and geology expert, the report gave the example of the disaster-prone Tunnel 10 on the realigned track that was pegged 8 meters below the bed of a nearby stream. Retired railway officials admitted that faulty experiments and the "greed" of a few not only made the track vulnerable to the forces of nature but also escalated the cost of the project from ₹1,677 crore to ₹5,500 crore. The Commissioner of Railway Safety had in July 2015 observed that the track was unsafe for passengers after nine derailments and the sinking of the track in 14 sections four months after the route was opened for goods trains.

Is only the railway at fault?

There is a general consensus that other factors have contributed to the situation Dima Hasao is in today. Roads in the district, specifically the four-lane Saurashtra-Silchar (largest Barak Valley town) East-West Corridor, have been realigned or deviated from the old ones that were planned around rivers and largely weathered the conditions. Locals said the arterial roads build over the past 20 years often cave in and get washed away by floods or blocked by landslides. Shortened cycles of jhum or shifting cultivation on the hill slopes and unregulated mining have accentuated the "man-made disaster", as former MLA from the district Samarjit Haflongbar wrote in a letter to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. "...massive extraction of river stone, illegal mining of coal and smuggling of forest timber... has led to the disaster. These activities have increased water current besides weakening either side of riverbanks such as Jatinga, Mahur, Langting and other rivers along with other streams and tributaries," he wrote, holding the chief of the autonomous district council responsible.

How vital are the rail and highway through Dima Hasao?

Meghalaya aside, Dima Hasao is the geographical link to a vast region comprising southern Assam's Barak Valley, parts of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. This region has an alternative, less disaster-prone highway through Meghalaya linking the country beyond and may not thus be impacted by any damage to the four-lane highway through Dima Hasao, once it is completed. But the Lumding-Badarpur railway line has been the lifeline for this region since goods trains started operating in March 2015.

Moreover, this track is vital for India's Look East policy that envisages shipping goods to and from Bangladesh's Chittagong port via Tripura's border points at Akhaura and Sabroom, the last railway station near the Feni River that serves as the India-Bangladesh border. The Dima Hasao line also links the ambitious 111 km Jiribam-Imphal railway project in Manipur being built on similar, landslide-prone terrain. There are plans to extend the Jiribam-Imphal line, which will have India's tallest railway bridge and the longest railway tunnel, to Myanmar and beyond. Such plans seem distant with Tripura and Mizoram indicating they cannot always rely on the rail connectivity through Dima Hasao. The two States have approached the Ministry of External Affairs for bringing fuels and essentials through Bangladesh, preferably on a long-term basis.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya terminal to begin operations from June 6

Initially, South Western Railway will run three pairs of trains from the point

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After a long wait of over a year, the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal at Baiyappanahalli (SMVB) will finally be opened for commercial operations from June 6.

Initially, the South Western Railway (SWR) will start operating three pairs of trains from the point. They are Ernakulam-SMVB (train number 12683/12684), Kochuveli-SMVB Express (16319/16320) and Patna-MVB (22353/22354).

Divisional Railway Manager Shyam Singh told *The Hindu* that operations of three pairs of trains will be shifted from Banaswadi to Baiyappanahalli terminal.

A formal inauguration of the terminal will be done at a later stage by the Prime Minister. The South Western Railway (SWR) is waiting for a date from the Prime Minister's Office, sources said.

The Sir M. Visvesvaraya centralised AC railway terminal at Baiyappanahalli in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO

Various amenities such as eateries through IRCTC, unreserved ticketing system, and passenger reservation ticketing system will operate. Waiting halls, Braille signage, and restrooms for disabled will be made available.

ANEESH HEGDE
Chief PRO, SWR

Fancy terminal

The fancy terminal made headlines last year for amenities that passengers are going to get once it becomes operational including centralised AC, airport-like look and others. However, the terminal was not put to use as there was no road network available connecting it from Banaswadi side and Old Madras Road.

In January, a railway overbridge at Baiyappanahalli opened connecting Old Madras Road (near S.V. Road metro station). Rail activists and generals had questioned the delay in opening the terminal.

However, SWR officials had maintained that in addition to road links, factors such as pandemic and operational issues delayed opening of the terminal. They had also maintained that the terminal has been in use for stabling for rakes, maintenance and others.

The terminal has a fully air-conditioned lobby, waiting hall, real-time passenger information system, VIP lounge, and a food court. It has a water recycling plant of four-lakh-litre capacity and provision for rainwater harvesting.

SWR had plans to operate 32 pairs of trains from the terminal, which is spread over 4,200 sq m and can handle passenger footfall of 50,000 per day. The Railways has spent ₹314 crore for the infrastructure. The officials say the train services will be gradually increased in the coming days.

"Various amenities such as eateries through IRCTC, unreserved ticketing system, and passenger reservation ticketing system will operate. Waiting halls, Braille signage, and restrooms for disabled will be made available," Aneesh Hegde, chief PRO, SWR said.

Public transport

Rail activists K.N. Krishnaprasad said, "After a long delay, the SWR is finally opening the terminal for public use. Starting train services from the point will help people in a big way. The authorities concerned should also work on providing public transport to the point for the benefit of the train passengers."

Making Malleswaram walkable for seniors

Initiative taken up to transform conservancy lanes

TANIA ANNY
BENGALURU

Conservancy lanes, that were once used for the ignominious purpose of manual scavenging, are now being redesigned to make a prime locality in Bengaluru walkable for senior citizens and children.

Malleswaram, laid out immediately after the 1898 Plague and one of the earliest planned areas in the city, has conservancy lanes which have fallen into disuse for years and of late been encroached upon and used for parking vehicles.

Malleswaram Urban Living Lab (M-ULL), a collaboration between Malleswaram Social and Sensing Local Foundation, after a successful campaign of street wall art transforming the old neighbourhood, has now taken up the initiative to transform conservancy lanes into walkable streets for senior citizens.

A conservancy lane at Malleswaram in Bengaluru.

Initially, 1.24 sq km area in Ward 45, 0.87 sq km in Ward 65, and 0.12 sq km in Ward 35 have been selected for this intervention. All facilities that senior citizens look forward to – benches, adequate lighting and road safety will be provided in these lanes, that connect key amenities like parks, schools and hospitals in the area. The initiative is supported by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport as well.

Suchitra Deep, architect and co-founder of Malleswaram Social and M-ULL told *The Hindu* that the initiative was born out of the concern that with crowding of the area, it had become tough to walk through the neighbourhood even for the young, and definitely more challenging for senior citizens. "There is no space to get together and socialise. Especially after the pandemic, people are keen to meet up and connect with each other and are seeking more safe spaces across the area. We are also planning other zones, 50 zones for toddlers, senior citizens, and other community activities. We aim to improve walkability of Malleswaram by re-imagining conservancy lanes as public spaces," she said. A public meeting on the initiative has been convened on May 26.

Vijaya Shenoy, a senior citizen from Malleswaram, said: "Due to traffic, even parks are accessible only early in the morning. Even then they are crowded. Most of the footpaths are dug up and unsafe to walk. Conservancy lanes are a good option for senior citizens."

Murder case: Social media post helps nab MBA graduate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Uploading his picture on social media ended the carefully crafted incognito life of a murder accused, who had assumed a new identity and worked at a bank in Pune.

Madhusudhan, 33, an MBA graduate and a private bank employee, was running a stock brokerage firm in Mysuru and incurred huge losses in 2014. He came across Udayraj Singh, a resident of Lakkasandra in the city, who offered to sell an antique necklace. He hatched a plan to rob him of the necklace and flee. As per the plan, he along with his associates Sriranga Abhishek, Kiran, Satish, Dileep kumar, Sridhar and Amith Kumar approached Udayraj on the pretext buying the antique necklace and attacked him with lethal weapons to rob the valuables in March 2014.

The Adugodi police subsequently arrested the accused.

Madhusudhan, who came out on bail in 2017, fled the State. He was not using the bank account nor communicated with his family. However, the police kept pursuing the case to track him down and recently came to know that he had uploaded his picture on a social media account, but under the name of Rahul. Following the trail, the police tracked him down to Pune and arrested him, ending his nearly six years on the run.

Officials told to widen 'kaccha' drains in Mahadevapura zone

Not a single drain encroached upon here: Byrathi Basavaraj

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj on Monday instructed urban development and BBMP officials to widen 'kaccha' drains in Mahadevapura zone as a measure to tackle flooding during monsoon.

Mr. Basavaraj, the Minister in charge of Mahadevapura zonal task force, chaired a meeting with civic officials to review infrastructure in the wake of heavy rains that lashed the city last week.

Claiming that not a single drain was encroached upon in the zone, the Minister said the problem was that drains located in villages have been included in the BBMP and they have not been developed.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who toured the city after last week's rains, has provided funds for expediting the works, he said.

Mr. Basavaraj said officials have been told to widen 'kaccha' drains by desilting them to ensure smooth flow of water. "This is a precautionary measure because all the other works that we have planned will be completed only by March 2023," he said.

Noting that more than 50% of the city's water drains into the K.R. Puram constituency that he represents, the Minister said water gets blocked owing to vents made by the Indian Railways.

Three areas that face problems in K.R. Puram are Nagapppa Reddy Layout, Pai Layout and Sai Layout. The government has sanctioned ₹32 crore for infrastructure development. An additional drain was being built at Nagappa Reddy Layout, he said.

Compensation

Till now, 23 households in K.R. Puram have received compensation of ₹25,000 each under DBT. In two-three days, all other households would be given the compensation, Mr. Basavaraj said.

Helplines

- Helplines have been set up for Mahadevapura zone. Citizens can dial 080-28512300, 080-28512301, or 9480685706 for help

Govt. prohibits illegal display of State emblems on vehicles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

To put an end to improper use of State emblems on number plates of vehicles, the government has ordered for removal of such emblems.

In a notification issued by the Chief Secretary of the State government, the departments and boards and corporations under them have been asked to remove State emblems illegally installed on the vehicles.

The notification states that if the heads of the department fail to take action on removal of defective number plates, the Karnataka High Court will be approached to initiate contempt of court proceedings against errant officials.

The State government has set a deadline to comply with the directions and provide necessary information to the Transport Commissioner by Wednesday.

Drives to be held

The government has also directed the Transport Department officials and traffic police to carry out drives for removal of defective number plates where private people use government emblems, displaying designation such as chairman, secretary and others above the number plates and others.

Use of State emblems and displaying number plates with Human Rights Commission written on them are rampant.

The Transport Department will also ask the public to post pictures of private vehicles using State emblems. Based on the complaints by the public, the department will book cases against the owners as per the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act. The police will initiate action against people who design emblems for private vehicle owners.

Biker injured in accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

It was a narrow escape for a bike rider who was run over by a car when the driver was reversing the vehicle in front of her house in Kamakshipalya on Monday.

The bike rider identified as Prabhakar sustained injuries and was rushed to a nearby private hospital where he is recovering. The incident occurred when the car driver, Lakshmi, was trying to take the vehicle out from the house, but panicked and hit the accelerator instead of brake. The car hit the bike and as a result the rider lost balance and came under the wheels. Passersby pulled him out and took him to the hospital before alerting the police. The incident was recorded in the CCTV cameras.

The traffic police have seized the vehicle and detained the driver.

CCB unearths drug racket

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The CCB officials on Sunday unearthed an inter-State drug racket and arrested two peddlers and recovered 5 kg of marijuana, 260 grams of Hashish oil and 20 LSD strips worth ₹10 lakh from them.

The accused were sourcing the drugs from neighbouring States and selling it to their clients who were mostly students and IT professionals.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police from the narcotics wing raided a house in Kumaraswamy Layout and seized the drugs. The police have also recovered three mobile phones from the accused.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. BE-29-2022-23-OT-05-09

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

OT No.	Name of Works	Approx. Value
5	Zonal Contract for Electrical works under Senior Section Engineer/PRS/Bengaluru Jurisdiction viz SBC station & Yard, Divisional Railway Manager office Building, Nandi club, Pitlines and other installations.	Rs. 25,10,049/-
6	Zonal Contract for Electrical works under Senior Section Engineer/P/Yesvantpur Jurisdiction.	Rs. 40,03,181/-
7	Zonal Contract for Electrical works under Bengaluru-Dharmavaram Section of Senior Section Engineer/P/Bengaluru Jurisdiction.	Rs. 25,03,896/-
8	Zonal Contract for Electrical works viz Bengaluru Cantonment-Bangarapet (Excl.) Section, Krishnarajapuram Shed, DEMU Shed, SGT, Baiyyappanahalli and other installations under Senior Section Engineer/P/ Bengaluru Cantonment Jurisdiction.	Rs. 30,06,831/-
9	Zonal Contract for Electrical works viz Bangarpet-Jolarpettai (Excl.), Bangarpet-Marikuppam, Bangarpet-Kolar-Chikballapur (Excl.) Sections and other installations under Senior Section Engineer/P/Bangarpet Jurisdiction.	Rs. 25,09,527/-

Last date for submission of bids:
For OT No. 5 & 6:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 08.06.2022
For OT No. 7, 8 & 9:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 14.06.2022

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Bengaluru

PUB/185/Adv/PRB/SWR/2022-23

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 14/MYS/2022
Dated: 18.05.2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-I:** Mysuru Station- Repairs and brightening of PF shelter at PF No. 1, 2 & 3, 4 & 5 and 6. **Sub Work-II:** Mysuru Station- Repairs of FOB steps in PF No. 1& 2. **Sub Work-III:** Mysuru Station- Repairs to front corridor and portico of Mysuru Station Building. **Sub Work-IV:** Mysuru Station- Proposed construction of Sahayaks rest room.	Rs. 1,74,52,253/-
2	**Hassan-Mangaluru:** Proposed construction of Road under Bridge as 2x9.15M PSC slab in lieu of manned Level Crossing No. 105 at Km. 139/100-200 at Kabaka Puttur station yard.	Rs. 11,42,33,543/-
3	**Hassan-Mangaluru Section:-** Renewal of damaged/ broken PSC sleepers at isolated location from km 98.00 to 139.000 between Subrahmanya Road to Kabaka Puttur stations.	Rs. 1,68,38,384/-
4	**Sub Work-I:** Krishnarajanagar- Extension of Booking office at Krishnarajanagar with 2 booking counters, store room and attached toilet. **Sub Work II:** Hassan-Construction of service room for C&W maintenance activities.	Rs. 38,80,203/-
5	**Sub Work-I:** Sakleshpur - Construction of SSE/works/office. **Sub Work-II:** Sakleshpur - Shifting of Booking Office to the place of adjacent canteen duly relocating canteen. **Sub Work-III:** Sakleshpur - Provision of PF shelter in PF No. 2. **Sub Work-IV:** Sakleshpur - Construction of Catering Stall at PF No.1. **Sub Work- V:** Sakleshpur - Improvement's to damaged floors of sick line shed. **Sub Work-VI:** Subrahmanya Road - Provision of IRS PF shelter at PF No. 2 (length of 32.0m x 7.0 m wide (2 bays).	Rs. 1,05,71,553/-
6	Providing Inspection of Platform for Bridge No. 706A Lokapavani, Bridge No. 725A Cauvery North, Bridge No. 726A, Cauvery South, Bridge No. 104A UTP.	Rs. 2,97,02,957/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 09.06.2022

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ord Mysuru

PUB/181/Adv/PRB/SWR/2022-23

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client has entered into an "Agreement to Sell" for purchasing the Schedule Property from its owner, **Mrs. Rani Desikan**, aged about 61 years, W/o. late Mr. S. Desikan, residing at No. 8/1, Desikan Nilayam, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Horamavu, Bangalore-560 043, for valuable consideration. Any person(s) claiming any right, title or interest of whatsoever nature over the Schedule Property is called upon to lodge such claim with the undersigned, with supporting documents within **7 days** from the date of this publication. In the event no claim(s) is received within the stipulated time, it shall be lawful for our client to presume that there are no valid claim(s) adverse to aforesaid Mrs. S. Rani Desikan's right, title and interest in the Schedule Property and proceed with the proposed sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No. 8/1, House List Khatha No. 291, situated at Hormavu Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50+51/2 feet, North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 1515 Sq. Ft., together with building constructed thereon comprising of Ground Floor measuring about 600 Sq. Ft., First Floor measuring about 1050 Sq. Ft., Second Floor measuring about 1050 Sq. Ft., Third Floor measuring about 1050 Sq. Ft., and bounded on **East by:** Road, **West by:** Road, **North by:** House No. 8, **South by:** House No. 9.

A. Venkoba Rao,
AVR Associates, Advocates
No. 34, 2nd Floor, 11th Cross,
2nd Main Road, Indiranagar I Stage,
Bengaluru-560038.

प्लाज़्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान
Institute for Plasma Research
Bhat, Gandhinagar – 382 428 Gujarat (India)
भाट, गांधीनगर–३८२ ४२८ गुजरात, (भारत)

TENDER NOTICE

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई–निविदा मोड के माध्यम से योग्य बोलीकर्ताओं से दो भागों में ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही हैं।

Online tenders are invited in **Two Parts** THROUGH e-tendering mode from and Eligible Bidders for the following works.

1.	कार्य का नाम:	**TENDER NOTICE NO: IPR/TN/CIVIL/01/2022 (Two Bid System)** आईपीआर कैंपस, प्लाज्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान, भाट, गांधीनगर–382428, गुजरात में मौजूदा कार्यशाला भवन का मरम्मत और नवीनीकरण।
	Name of Work :	**Repairing and Renovation of existing workshop Building at Institute for Plasma Research Campus, Bhat, Gandhinagar. (IPR)-382428, Gujarat.**
2.	कार्य का नाम:	**TENDER NOTICE NO: IPR/TN/CIVIL/02/2022 (Two Bid System)** आईपीआर कैंपस, प्लाज्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान, भाट, गांधीनगर–382428, गुजरात में वॉलीबॉल कोर्ट, बैडमिंटन कोर्ट और क्रिकेट पिच सहित मैदानों का निर्माण और उन्नयन।
	Name of Work :	**Construction and up gradation of Playgrounds including volleyball court, badminton court and cricket pitch at Institute for Plasma Research Campus, Bhat, Gandhinagar. (IPR)-382428, Gujarat.**
3.	कार्य का नाम:	**TENDER NOTICE NO: IPR/TN/CIVIL/03/2022 (Two Bid System)** एफसीआईपीटी परिसर, प्लॉट नंबर ए/10/बी, जीआईडीसी, सेक्टर–25, गांधीनगर–382016 गुजरात में विविधसिविल रखरखाव और निर्माण कार्य।
	Name of Work :	**Miscellaneous Civil Maintenance and Construction works at FCIPT campus, Plot No. A/10/B, GIDC, Sector – 25, Gandhinagar.–382016, Gujarat.**

निविदा दस्तावेज विस्तृत निविदा सूचना के साथ https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app पर निःशुल्क देखने तथा डाउनलोड करने के लिए उपलब्ध है।

Detailed tender notice and Tender Document for the respective work is available on website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for free view and downloading.

इस निविदा सूचना की प्रति देखने के लिए संस्थान की वेबसाइट पर भी उपलब्ध है।

A copy of this tender notice is also available on the Institute's website for viewing only http://www.ipr.res.in/documents/tenders.html

support.civiltenders@ipr.res.in

ICTS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL SCIENCES
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RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Advertisement No: ICTS-Notice-2022/06 Date : 24 May 2022

International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), a premier research center (an Autonomous, Grant-in-Aid Institution of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and a Deemed University) is looking for highly motivated and self-driven individuals for appointment for the following posts under unreserved category at its Bengaluru Campus.

Sr. No.	Position	No. of posts	Upper age limit (as on 1st Jan. 2022)	Consolidated Monthly Emoluments	
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2.	Intern (AV)	1	28	10000 (Stipend)	
3.	Tradesman B - Web (Temporary)	1	28	31800	
4.	Intern (Web)	1	28	10000 (Stipend)	
5.	Project Assistant (Program Office)	1	28	31800	

Interested candidates should apply online and submit their applications latest by **14 June 2022.** For more information please visit the website **www.icts.res.in.**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MADHURAJ.M, R/at No.521, Sriram Building, 17th D Main, 6th E Cross, Koramangala 6th Block, Bangalore-560034, have changed my name from Madhuraj.M to Madhu Manivannan vide affidavit dated 23/05/2022 before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAVI Ramashetty, #1680, 2nd Mn, 1st Crs, Kamakshamma Lyt, Yelahanka, Bluru-64 have changed my Minor Daughter's name from Sai Saksha Ravi Ramashetty to Himavarshini.R (Himavarshini Ravi Ramashetty) vide affidavit dt.23.05.22 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru.

I, RANGANATH.K.C, S/o Chennappa.K.N, R/at No.5/1, K.Krishnasagara, Hosapalya, Sulikere, Bengaluru South,Bengaluru-560060, have changed my name from Ranganath.K.C. to Ranganatha.K.C, vide affidavit dated 21/05/2022 before Notary N.Kanchivaradaraju, Bangalore.

WE, D Bharath Reddy and Bhagyashree, R/a #1092, 4th Cross, 4th Main, 'D' Block AECS Layout, Kundalahalli, Bangalore-560037 have changed our minor son's name from Aatharv B to Atharv Reddy B vide affidavit dated 13-05-2022 before Notary K.S. Giridhar, Bengaluru.

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
NO.1 RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI - 1

TENDER NOTIFICATION - C6/255/2022/T Notice inviting e-Tender Cum e-Auction in Central Public Procurement Portal through NIC for allotment of area (With structure) in "as is where is basis" for the purpose of Sailing Activities on 30 years annual lease on FRoR, without renewal option inside custom bound area, under two cover system from 24.05.2022 to 13.06.2022

For further details visit Ch.P.A. website **www.chennaiport.gov.in** and **www.eprocure.gov.in**

TRAFFIC MANAGER

ABSTRACT

Engineering tomatoes to produce vitamin D

Scientists have used a novel way to modify tomato plants to have fruits rich in a precursor to vitamin D

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Li, J., Scarano, A., Gonzalez, N.M. et al. Biofortified tomatoes provide a new route to vitamin D sufficiency. *Nat. Plants* (2022). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41477-022-01154-6

THE GIST

- According to estimates made in 2020 nearly 690 million people, who make up close to 8.9% of the world's population, are hungry. One of the main reasons for this hunger is micronutrient malnutrition.
- A paper in *Nature Plants* by Jie Li et al tries to address vitamin D deficiency by genetically modifying tomato plants so that the fruit contains a significant amount of provitamin D3 which is a precursor from which humans can make vitamin D.
- Vitamin D is needed for a process known as calcium homeostasis which is the maintenance of constant concentration of calcium ions in the body.

Reading the pages of the World Sustainable Development Goals 2 (SDG2) – Eradicating Hunger – is depressing to say the least. According to the estimates made in 2020, nearly 690 million people, who make up close to 8.9% of the world's population, are hungry. This number has increased by 60 million in the preceding five years. The index which was initially decreasing has started to rise since 2015. This does not portend well for the SDG2 which has as its target zero hunger by 2030, and the guess is, if this trend continues, that the world will have 840 million people affected by hunger by 2030.

The 'invisible' hunger

There are various ramifications to hunger, and an important part of it is micronutrient malnutrition. This is a term used for diseases caused by deficiency of vitamins and minerals in the diet. This is particularly a problem in developing countries and the number of those suffering from this so-called invisible hunger is huge. Some methods of combating this are to provide micronutrient supplements in the form of tablets or capsules and to fortify food products such as flour or salt by enhancing micronutrients in them. There is also the route of genetically modifying plants to produce biofortified leaves and fruit which can be consumed to alleviate micronutrient hunger.

In this line, a paper in *Nature Plants* by Jie Li et al tries to address vitamin D deficiency by genetically modifying tomato (Solanum lycopersicum) plants so that the fruit contains a significant amount of provitamin D_3 which is a precursor from which humans can make vitamin D. Provitamin D_3 has the chemical name 7-dehydrocholesterol, or 7-DHC for short. Humans can synthesise Vitamin D from 7-DHC when they are exposed to ultraviolet B (UVB) light. Vitamin D is needed for a process known as calcium homeostasis which is the maintenance of constant concentration of calcium ions in the body. This is needed for, among other things, bone development and strength, and its deficiency is a cause of conditions such as rickets and osteoporosis.

The recommended intake of vitamin D is 15 microgram per day for children and 20 microgram per day for elders. This can be given through supplements or a careful exposure to sunlight

Other diseases that are associated with vitamin D deficiency are cancer, Parkinson's disease and dementia. Vitamin D_3 is present in fish and dairy products. Vegetarian diets are particularly deficient in Vitamin D.

Mutant tomatoes

The recommended intake of vitamin D is 15 microgram per day for children and 20 microgram per day for elders. This can be given through supplements or a careful exposure to sunlight, but there are various caveats for the latter. It is in this context that the work of J. Li et al is significant. The authors of the paper, published in *Nature Plants*, tweaked a recently discovered pathway in tomato plants to produce cholesterol and a substance called steroidal glycoalkaloid (SGA for short) using the CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing tool. This inhibits the conversion of 7-DHC to cholesterol and instead the former accumulates in the leaves, green and ripe fruits.

Usually, in untreated tomato plants, 7-DHC is present in leaves and to a lower extent in green fruit, but not in ripe fruit – which is the most consumed of the lot. The researchers showed that in their modified plants, the suppression of the activity of a particular gene, "led to substantial increases of 7-DHC levels in leaves and green fruit," and, according to the paper, while levels of 7-DHC were lower in ripe fruits of the mutant, they remained high enough that if converted to Vitamin D_3 by shining UVB light, the amount in one tomato would be equivalent to that in two eggs or 28 grams of tuna, both of which are recommended sources of vitamin D. In addition, the researchers report that the mutants showed a reduction in their leaves of a substance called alpha-tomatine, and they comment that this may even be beneficial because of alpha-tomatine's reported toxicant or antinutritional activity. Surprisingly, the cholesterol levels in both fruit and leaves of the mutants was higher that of the wild-type. This was despite having blocked the conversion of 7-DHC to cholesterol.

Need for deeper understanding

Prof P. V. Shivaprasad, whose group in National Centre of Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, studies the effect of small RNA biogenesis in establishment of epigenetics (epigenetics is the study of how your behaviors and environment can cause changes in the way your genes work), and who is not involved in this work comments that while the study throws open a welcome new angle to increase vitamin D intake, it needs better understanding. Alpha-tomatine is believed to have a role in the plant's resistance to viral, fungal, insect and herbivoral attacks. Thereby it is important in safeguarding the plant and its self-preservation, and the reduction of alpha-tomatine in the mutants may not necessarily be a good thing. The unexplained levels of cholesterol are also surprising and need to be explained. So, while this experiment is an important one and promises to be fruitful in replenishing vegetarian diets with vitamin D, it needs further scrutiny and a deeper look.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"Sir, how do you use 'used to' sir?"

"You use 'used to' when you want to express something that happened repeatedly in the past.

I used to see a lot of movies.

When I was young. I used to travel a lot.

I used to walk about five miles a day till my sixtieth year.

He doesn't teach here now, but he used to.

It can also refer to a past state.

There used to be a big garden in this area.

There used to be an elementary school where you have a hotel now.

Please remember that 'I am used to' means 'I am accustomed to'.

I am used to walking.

I am used to being abused by him.

She is used to listening to flattery.

I was used to taking tea at night. I have given it up now.

I hope you understand the difference."

"Yes, sir."

"Where is your sister? You said you would bring her."

"Sir, her colleague asked her to engage her class. So she had to stay back."

"Oh, she is taking her colleague's class. To keep someone 'engaged' means to 'keep him or her occupied'. But I think your sister was expected to 'take' your colleague's class. She was expected to teach and not just keep the class out of mischief! For some reason, the word 'engage' is very popular with our teachers. It is a serious reflection on them if they merely 'engage' their classes. But they don't engage their classes. They take their classes and take them seriously, I am sure."

"Sir, I have always used 'engage' in such contexts. Is it all right to say 'I'll engage a taxi'?"

"It is not wrong. However 'hire' is more usual than 'engage'.

Let's hire a taxi. Some use the word 'take'. Let's take a taxi. We seem to love this word 'engage'. We are engaged to it! The word 'engaged' is used in the following contexts.

I don't think we can get that taxi; it is engaged.

The line is engaged, I can't speak to her now. I'll have to wait for some time."

"Sir, what's the difference between 'the session begins next Monday' and 'the session will begin next Monday'?"

"Both refer to a future event. The sentence with 'begins' is much more definite than the sentence with 'will begin'. 'Will begin' is less definite and less categorical than 'begins'."

"What's the difference between 'vanish' and 'disappear' sir?"

"Things disappear either gradually or suddenly.

I left my book on the table. Where has it disappeared?

What disappears may also appear. What vanishes may not appear again.

'Do you believe in ghosts? asked A of B. 'No' said B and vanished.

The fairy granted her the boon and vanished.

The word is also used figuratively.

After the accident, the driver vanished from the scene.

Well, it's getting late for you. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goobye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

On May 24, 203 years ago, one of the longest-serving monarchs was born. A quiz on the life of Queen Victoria

1 Alexandrina Victoria was brought up under a rule by which she shared a room with her mother and was never allowed any time alone. What was the system, devised by one John Conroy, called?

2 Victoria holds the record for being the youngest British monarch at the start of their reign. In which year did she ascend the throne?

3 She married her cousin Albert and they had lots of children. How many sons and daughters were born to the couple?

4 In which year did she officially become the Empress of India?

5 He was Queen Victoria's first Prime Minister and she trusted him greatly as a close friend. The capital of the Australian State of Victoria is named after the premier. Who?

6 How are Edward Oxford, John Francis, John William Bean, and Robert Pate connected to the life of the queen?

7 What wedding apparel became a status symbol following Victoria and Albert's nuptials?

8 Queen Victoria blamed her eldest son and heir for her husband Albert's death. Name the future king.

In which State capital is this majestic Victoria Public Hall located? • FILE PHOTO

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The oldest male player to win a Grand Slam. **Ans: Ken Rosewall in 1972**

2. The oldest cricketer to score a test century. **Ans: Jack Hobbs**

3. The footballer who holds the record for being the oldest to score a goal in the FIFA World Cup. **Ans: Roger Milla, Cameroon**

4. The oldest chess player to win a national championship. **Ans: Viktor Korchnoi**

5. The oldest player to win a Grand Slam tournament. **Ans: Martina Navratilova**

Visual: The basketball player who holds the record of playing the most NBA games and was the oldest to win a championship as well. **Ans: Robert Parish**

Early Birds: Ashish Nair| V. Gayatri Deepthi| Abid. R .Baba| Femi Grace| K.N. Viswanathan| Ronnie Chatterjee

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Parents take a big hit as private schools increase fee

School van fee and private tuition fee also go north; uniforms, bags pricier

JAHNAVI T. R.
BENGALURU

After two years of the pandemic, when classes were mostly held online and government regulated school fee by announcing rebates, the academic year of 2022-23 has hit the parents hard. While schools across the board have hiked their fees in the range of 10%-15%, school van fee and private tuition fees have also shot up. Parents are also burdened with the rising costs of uniforms, shoes, bags, notebooks and other associated items. From Lower Kindergarten (LKG) to second PU or twelfth grade, fee hike at private institutions has not spared parents.

This has translated into a 20%-40% drop in admission rates in private schools this academic year in urban areas. "At a private school in the city, ₹74,800 is being demanded for admission to LKG. What kind of special training is required at that level? Schools say that they have to hike fees as maintenance costs have gone up drastically. But parents especially in the lower middle class, are finding it really hard to pay such huge amounts," said Mullahalli Suri, President Parent's Association.

Another parent mentioned that with no regulatory guidelines, a private PU College have also indiscriminately hiked their fees, by over 50%.

Government public schools have reported an increase in admissions in the last three years. Both school managements and parents' association agree that many parents opted to take their kids out of private schools as they could not afford the fee structure. "Leave aside donation, parents could not even afford the tuition fees at these schools. This is why many of us shifted our children to neighbourhood government schools this time," said Nirmala, a resident of Banashankari.

Association of the Karnataka Parent Community members stage protest against private schools' harsh rules, fee system and other issues faced by children in Bengaluru • FILE PHOTO

On the other hand, private schools and van drivers say that even though they do not want to burden parents, fee hikes are inevitable as they are also compelled to shell out extra money in every sector.

"Most schools have kept the hike within 15% and there are only a few elite schools which have gone beyond this limit. As there has been no hike for the past two years, school fee structure we have today is unable to catch up with inflation. It is important to note that average private schools take less money when compared with the government's expenditure per child in public schools and still provide a better quality of education," said D. Shashikumar, General Secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools.

He argued a variety of reasons, including inflation and falling incomes had contributed to drop in admission rates at private schools. Factors like the collapse of small-scale industries during the pandemic, migrants who did not return to the cities, mushrooming of schools, and obvious economic restraints, have contributed to the fall in private school admission rates. "While State board admissions have dropped by over 40 percent, Central boards saw a fall of 20%. Nursery admissions took the greatest hit of 60 to 70%."

Although an official decision is yet to be taken by Karnataka Union of School and Light Motor Vehicle Drivers Association, its president Shanmugam, said a hike was inevitable and a decision will be taken by June.

"The price of fuel, road tax and insurance have all increased now. During the pandemic, for two years van drivers had no means of earning a livelihood. The government pays no attention to our demands. We have no other option even though we understand parents' plight," he said.

However, at many schools, the van fee has already been hiked up to 35-40%. While some parents have cut down on this expense by dropping and picking up their children (as there are parents working from home), those who cannot do that say that they have no choice. "Before pandemic, I used to pay ₹600 for my daughter's van fees. Now they are asking ₹1000. I have no other option but to pay as I cannot make her walk four kilometers one way, everyday," said Manjula, a domestic worker in Yelahanka.

INTERVIEW | BARBARA BUSH AND DANIELLE HOLMAN

'Most interest for Quad fellowship is from India'

Schmidt Futures, a philanthropic initiative, will administer the programme

K.C. DEEPIKA
BENGALURU

In September, 2021, Quad partner countries Australia, India, Japan, and the United States announced the QUAD Fellowship – a first-of-its-kind scholarship programme designed to build ties among the next generation of scientists and technologists. Set to sponsor 100 American, Japanese, Australian and Indian (25 from each country) masters and doctoral students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to study in the United States from August 2023 to May 2024, each Quad Fellow will receive a one-time award of $50,000 which can be used for tuition, research, fees, books, room and board, and related academic expenses.

Schmidt Futures, a philanthropic initiative, will operate and administer the fellowship programme in consultation with a non-governmental taskforce comprising academic, foreign policy, and private sector leaders from each Quad country. In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, Barbara Bush, Executive-In-Residence at Schmidt Futures, and Danielle Holman, Manager of Talent Selection at Schmidt Futures, who were in Bengaluru, talk about how the response from India has been to the fellowship and what it will be like to be a Quad Fellow.

Amidst the sustained clamour for 'professional courses', why did the fellowship focus on STEM?

■ **Bush**: The fellowship was started by leaders of the Quad countries, who acknowledged that there are so many current challenges that we are dealing with – COVID 19, climate crisis, etc. So they wanted to create a fellowship programme focused on STEM acknowledging that different STEM skill sets can address current problems that we experience right now, but will be critical in addressing future issues that we can't even predict.

The application process opened in March. What has the response been like? Are there specific upper limits on the number of applicants from each country?

■ **Holman:** We have had enthusiastic interest across the countries, but certainly the most was from India, which was no surprise because it has the biggest population.

Bush: It closes on June 30. So, we want to make sure that any interested applicant in the STEM field should apply.

The U.S. has always been a top choice for students from many countries, more so from India, for higher studies. How does this fellowship come into play in such a scenario?

■ **Bush:** A big part of the Quad leaders' vision is to work across the borders. So, we want our fellows to work across nationalities and also hope that they will, after studying in the US, return to their home countries to implement solutions based on the education and skills they have received.

How does the fellowship work?

■ **Holman:**Fellows receive a one-time personal award of $50,000, and it is flexible: it can be used for tuition, or room and board, or related academic expenses. There is a multi-day residential experience in one of the Quad countries in 2023 outside of the U.S. Next year, it will be in Australia and it will be on rotation. So, it will be a five-day opportunity for all 100 fellows from all four countries to come together, engage in workshops, programming on relevant STEM topics.

Applications close on June 30. We want to make sure that interested applicants should apply

DANIELLE HOLMAN
Manager of Talent Selection at Schmidt Futures

The Quad consists of countries that have traditionally been known to produce some of the brightest minds in science and technology. Are there specific goals that the fellowship has in terms of pushing particular kinds of research?

■ **Bush:** The four Quad countries have goals together. But, what is equally or more so important is that they want to use their skills to benefit society, to use STEM for good and make sure that other people's lives are better. So right now, what we can see as big challenges like COVID-19 and climate change and we would love for our Quad fellows to work on those. But we know they will be proximate to other problems and see innovations that we cannot even think of right now and solve those using their skills to advance society for the better.

Racial attacks have been of concern of late, including in the U.S. Would this have an impact on the preference of students?

■ **Bush:** It is a challenge around the world, unfortunately. We don't know what is weighing on the minds of our applicants. We have yet to meet our fellows. But of course, the safety and security of anyone during this programme is important to us and to the universities as well.

Does the fellowship address women's representation in STEM?

■ **Holman:** Our goal is to have gender parity. This is a challenge that universities around the world are facing. So we can't solve it all in one year. But we are excited about partnering with women in STEM organisations, women's colleges and to make sure that our outreach is comprehensive.

More details can be found on https://www.quadfellowship.org/

Three held for looting jewellery shop

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Chamarajpet police have arrested a gang of three who robbed a jewellery shop and made away with 8 kg of silver biscuits and cash ₹3.3 lakh, worth about ₹9 lakh on Sunday.

Within four hours of the robbery being reported on Sunday morning, police arrested Rahul Jain and his associates, Rajesh and Madhu.

According to the police officials, Rahul Jain, a salesman at a shop incurred huge loss and planned to rob the gold shop to recover the loss.

FROM PAGE ONE

Council polls: Congress picks Nagaraju Yadav, Abdul Jabbar

- The election is necessitated as the term of the seven MLCs is set to end on June 14

They added that several leaders such as former Minister S.R. Patil, former MP V.S. Ugrappa, farmers' leader Sachin Miga, former KPCC president Allum Veerabhadrappa, and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee women's wing president Pushpa Amarnath were among the others who had been seeking ticket.

Seven members are to be elected from the Assembly in the elections to be held on June 3.

Tuesday is the last day for filing nomination papers.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress, and the Janata Dal (Secular) are guaranteed four, two, and one seat respectively. The election is necessitated as the term of the seven MLCs is set to end on June 14.

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said that the JD(S) would announce names in the presence of party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda.

The party on Monday also announced its candidates in two teachers' constituencies in the Legislative Council that are going to the polls along with two graduates' constituencies on June 13.

Srishaila Ningappa Gidadanni will take on Basavaraj Horatti, who left JD (S) to join BJP recently, in the Karnataka West Teachers' constituency.

In the North-West constituency, the party has fielded Chandrashekar E. Loni as its candidate to take on Arun Shahpur of BJP. Mr. Kumaraswamy said that he would personally go for campaigning in the West Teachers' constituency.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAY. 24	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:40
RISE 01:40	SET 13:45
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 25	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:40
RISE 02:19	SET 14:35
THURSDAY, MAY. 26	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:41
RISE 02:57	SET 15:24

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of rain and thundershower at some places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A comfortable but humid weather to continue. Night will be comfortable. Spell of rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Be a step ahead in life

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Phone: 0461-2321932 (E), 2321929 (E)
Website: www.tmb.in Email: shareholders@tmbank.in

BOOK CLOSURE FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS AND E-VOTING CUT-OFF DATE

Notice is hereby given that the 98th, 99th and 100th Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of the members of the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd will be held on Thursday, the 9th June, 2022 at 11:30 A.M. IST onwards through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made thereunder, read with MCA General Circular No. 21/2021 dated December 14, 2021, No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020, No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021, No. 19/2021 dated December 08, 2021 and No. 02/2022 dated May 05, 2022, to transact the businesses as set forth in the Notices of the AGMs.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and relevant rules made thereunder, the register of members and share transfer register of the Bank will be closed from Friday, 3rd June, 2022 to Thursday, 9th June, 2022 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of the AGMs. The cut-off date for reckoning voting rights of the shareholders for the purpose of electronic voting for the AGMs and payment of Dividend (subject to approval of RBI) shall be Thursday, June 02, 2022.

CORRIGENDUM FOR THE NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

This corrigendum is being issued in continuation of the Notices dated 6th May, 2022 for the Annual General Meetings of the Bank which is to be held on 9th June, 2022, dispatched to the shareholders of the Bank by post / email on 16th May, 2022. It is hereby requested to note the following alterations / corrections:

1. On page No. 17 & 18 of the Notice of the 99th Annual General Meeting, in Item No. 7, 8 & 9, wherein *'the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended (the "SEBI Listing Regulations") &'* portion is removed from the resolutions.
2. On page No.13, 37 & 67 of the Notice of the 98th, 99th, and 100th Annual General meetings , in Annexure A, wherein *'Number of equity shares held in the Company as on 31.03.2021'* shall be read as *'Number of equity shares held in the Bank as on 31.03.2022'.*
3. On page No. 12 & 67 of the Notice of the 98th & 100th Annual General meetings, in Annexure A, wherein *'DIN & Nationality – 1599504, 1053727 & 000884014'* shall be read as *'05142860, 00455352 & 00084014'* respectively.

Except the above, the Notice to the shareholders remains the same as before. This corrigendum shall form part of AGMs Notices and shall be available in Bank's website www.tmb.in.

For **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited**
Sd/-
Prakash Chandra Panda
Company Secretary

Thoothukudi
May 23, 2022

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 H.R.B.H.L.C Division, Gorur Hassan District-573120

Tender Indefinite Postponment Date: 23-5-2022.

Ref:1. Tender Notification No. 06/2022-23 Dated: 16.5.2022 Tender Indefinite Postponment due to code of conduct the Tender Notification No. 06/2022-23 Dated: 16.5.2022 is issued herewith. The other conditions remains are unaltered. Tender Notification No. 06/2022-23 Dated:16.5.2022 As Notified in reference (1) Last date for receipt of tender:23.5.2022 4:00 PM As per Postponement Last date for receipt of tender: Tender Indefinite Postponment

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, No.1 HRBHLC Division, Gorur

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client intend to buy the below mentioned Schedule properties from it's respective owners. If any person/s or Institution, Authority etc., have got any objections or claiming any right, title and interest of what so ever nature on the Schedule Property, are hereby required to communicate the same along with supporting documents to me at my Office within (10) TEN days from this day. Otherwise, the Sale transaction shall be completed without any reference or regard to any such purported claim or interest, which shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	Sy No.	Extent	Owner	Boundaries			
				East By	West By	North By	South By
1.	188	2 Acre 28 Guntas	R.Muniyappa S/o. Late Ramaiah	Sy.No.153/1	Sy.No.189	Sy.No.144 Gomala	Bangalore Kolar National Highway
2.	144/P1	1 Acre 16 Guntas	Ashwathamma W/o Sri.R. Muniyappa	Sy.No.144 Gomala	Sy.No.144 Gomala & Sy.No.238	Sy.No.159	Sy.No. 148/1

Both the lands are situated at Chakarasanahalli Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk and District, Karnataka.

Mr.B.T. PRASANNA KUMAR, B.Sc., LL.B.,
Advocate
No.56, 1st Main, 6th Cross, Sudhamanagar, Bangalore-27. Ph : 9243118157

(Government of Karnataka)
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT HASSAN DIVISION HASSAN
Phone No.08172-261640 Email Id:eerdwsd.hsn@gmail.com

TWO COVER SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 03/2022-23 (POSTPONED) DATED: 21-05-2022

On Behalf Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department Hassan Division Hassan. Has invited the Tender for the works of Arsikere Taluk Approved under 2021-22 MVS Mention Below, Two Cover System works Hassan, Belur, Alur & Sakaleshpur Taluk -01 Work (General Category) Channarayaptana Taluk -01 Work (General Category) Holenarsipura Taluk -02 Works (General Category) Arkalgud Taluk -03 Works (General Category) Above work tenders are invited in Two cover system in e-procurement portal. The tender details are available in www.e-procurement.karnataka.gov.in From 21-05/2022 After 5.30P.m. The bidder should submitted the tender with in the dated: 23.06.2022 before 5-30 P.M. On Dated :27-05-2022 The Pre-bid Meeting will be conducted in this office, Interested Contractor may participated. Venue : Office of the Chief Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Department, 1st floor, K.H.B. Complex "E" Block, K.G. Road Cauvery Bhavan Bangalore. The Technical bid will open on dated : 24-06-2022 after 11.00 A.M. The Financial bid of the Technically qualified bidder will be open on dated: 29-06-2022 after 11.00A.M. The Executive Engineer has reserved the rights of to cancel all tender or any one tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Rural drinking water and sanitation Dept, Hassan division, Hassan.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(KALINADI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited in two covers from eligible bidders for the supply of the following materials: 1) **KPCL/2021-22/IND4794/CALL-2** Paints, Thinner, Wall putty, Primer, Paint brushes, Roller paint brush, Wire brushes & Paint spray guns of any Reputed/ Equivalent make as per technical specifications. **EMD: Rs. 4,000/-. 2) KPCL/2022-23/IND_991_1** Various abrasives. **EMD: Rs. 9090/-. 3) KPCL/2021-22/IND_MRP40/CALL-2** Fire extinguishing accessories. **EMD: Rs. 5600/-. 4) KPCL/2021-22/IND5141/CALL-3** RTD, Overload Relay, Push Buttons, Switches etc. **EMD: Rs. 6825/-. 5) KPCL/2021-22/IND_100_3/CALL-3** Spares for Electric Overhead Traveller (EOT) crane. **EMD: Rs. 4320/-. 6) KPCL/2021-22/IND_100_5/CALL-2** Hydraulic thrust brake, 375mm-AC Electromagnetic Brake, LT, Thruster brake unit for EOT Crane. **EMD: Rs. 4,000/-. 7) KPCL/2021-22/IND5007/CALL-4** Guide Vane Link PTFE Bush, GV links, etc. **EMD: Rs. 7790/-.** Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-procurement website: **URL:https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of bids up to: For Sl. No.1: **26.05.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 2, 3, 4 & 5: **27.05.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 6 & 7: **30.05.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (MSP)A,** KPCL, Ambikanagar-581363. Ph: 08284-258681, Mobile: 94495 99113. E-mail: eemspe@gmail.com

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division, 8th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagara, Kanakanapalya, Bengaluru-560 011.

No:EE/CKP/E-PROC/04/2022-23 Date: 23.05.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Two Cover)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Chikkapete Division), BBMP Bengaluru Invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the Construction of work detailed in the table below. **(STD-KW-1, 2, 3 & 4)**

Sl No	Name of the Works	Estimate Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1	Development of roads and drains in Dharmaraya Swamy Temple Ward No-119.	100.00	200000
2	Development of roads and drains in Sunkenahalli Ward No-142.	150.00	225000
3	Development of Park in Sunkena -halli Ward.	90.00	180000
4	Development of Parks in V V Puram Ward No-143	60.00	120000
5	Development of roads and drains in Hombegowdanagara Ward No-145.	100.00	200000

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **03.06.2022** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting on **27.05.2022** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560 011. (3) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **03.06.2022** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date of Technical Bid Opening of Tenders is **04.06.2022** by **4:30** pm. (5) Date of Financial Bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical Bid Approved. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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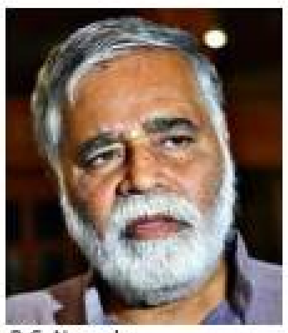
Revised textbook reflects 'facts and real history', says Minister

Texts only edited suitably and nothing dropped, claims Nagesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Strongly defending the revision of textbooks that has stirred a huge controversy, Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh insisted that the government had not dropped content related to freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, social reformer Narayana Guru, rationalist Periyar Ramaswamy or 18th century Mysuru king Tipu Sultan.


B.C. Nagesh

Addressing a press conference, he said the committee had only expanded on these ideas by including more historically important figures such as Chandrashekar Azad, Rajguru, Sukhdev Singh, and others and editing some content.

Editing Periyar

Explaining the manner in which texts had been edited, the Minister said: "We edited some lines in the lesson of Periyar which would hurt Hindu sentiments. We have also edited paragraphs that glorified Tipu Sultan and told the other side of the story as well. Narayana Guru's chapter is only shifted from one class to another."

"We are going to introduce facts and real history to students without glorifying anybody," he said, adding that he was ready for a dialogue on the issue.

The Minister defended the inclusion of the lesson based on the speech of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar and said: "Hedgewar was a great nationalist. He entered the freedom movement as a member of the Congress and left after the failure of the Khilafat movement. To uphold the pride of the country, he formed RSS in 1925. He is an inspiration for lakhs of people across the country, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and others," he said. He added that they had edited the word "Bhagva dwaja" and used only "dhwaja" because it was a different historical context prior to independence when there was no national flag.

The ongoing controversy around textbooks, he insisted, was because the Opposition was "unable to stomach the strides made in the field of education by the present Government led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai."

He said that the previous textbook revision committee, which was headed by Baragur Ramachandrappa, had also dropped many lessons, but it had never become controversial. Poems by Kuvempu and Kayyara Kinhanna Rai were dropped and so were lessons on Gandhi and Ambedkar, he argued.

Asked about the controversy on most new additions to textbooks being authored by writers from the Brahmin community while dropping many by those from non-Brahmin castes, Mr. Nagesh asked why caste issue was being "raked up even among writers."

"The previous committee too had included 19 lessons by Brahmin authors but it was not questioned. The so-called intellectuals are creating a controversy and caste politics around textbooks," the Minister alleged.

On the furore over inclusion of a lesson by BJP and founder of Yuva Brigade Chakravarthi Sulibele, Mr. Nagesh said: "Mr. Sulibele does not belong to any political party. He is a motivational speaker." He said that the earlier textbook had a lesson by active politician and former Minister Jaimala, referring to the lesson on Jyotiba Phule authored by her. The Minister pointed out that Devanuru Mahadeva, who is the author of 'Edege Bidda Akshara' (retained in the current textbook) is also associated with a political outfit. The Bhagat Singh lesson (reintroduced after the controversy) is authored by G. Ramakrishna who is a Marxist. "So there is nothing wrong in including Sulibele's lesson," he insisted.

'IIT and CET professor'

Reacting to the criticism that Mr. Chakrathirtha was not qualified to head the committee, Mr. Nagesh claimed that he was an "IIT and CET professor" without further elaborating on it. "He is highly capable to head the committee," he said.

PU history lesson to be revised too

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Following Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh's letter, the Department of Pre-University Education has entrusted the task of revision of II PU history textbook chapter 4.2 titled "Emerging New Religions" too to the committee headed by Rohith Chakrathirtha.

Letter to Dept.

The Minister had written to the Principal Secretary of the Primary and Secondary Education Department on March 17, 2022, stating that there were "some abjections" against the lesson that "hurts religious sentiments."

Report submitted

It is learnt that the committee has already revised the textbook and submitted the report to the government. Mr. Nagesh said: "Mr. Chakrathirtha has successfully done the revisions of textbooks. That is why we entrusted the II PU history textbooks revision to him."

He described Mr. Chakrathirtha as a "patriot."

Student organisations to launch State-wide protest

'BJP trying to hurt future of students and push its agenda'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Activists of various organisations addressing a press conference on the textbook issue in Bengaluru on Monday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Multiple student organisations have announced State-wide protests against the recent revision of textbooks for Class I-X. A coalition of student organisations, parents, and other progressive groups that met in the city on Monday have announced the protest and black flag demonstration against textbook revision which they term as an effort at "saffronisation" by the ruling BJP.

A protest will also be held at Freedom Park on May 31 demanding that the State government immediately abolish the Rohith Chakrathirtha-led textbook revision committee and restore the old textbooks.

"The lessons dropped and those included clearly show that BJP is trying to hurt the future of the students and push its hidden agenda. Instead of fostering diversity, the texts introduced clearly betray an attempt at homogenising our culture in favour of one religion and ideology," said a statement issued by a coalition of student organisations. "Not only are the new revised textbooks dangerous, but they have also held up distribution of textbooks to students weeks after the classes have begun. We demand the government revert back to old textbooks and distribute them immediately to all students," said Sarovar Benkikere of Karnataka Vidyarthi Sanghatane.

- A protest will also be held at Freedom Park on May 31 demanding the government abolish the Rohith Chakrathirtha-led textbook revision committee and restore the old books.

A coalition of progressive student organisations, including Students Federation of India (SFI), All India Students Federation (AISF), National Students Union of India (NSUI), and Karnataka Vidyarthi Sanghatane (KVS) met here on Monday to chalk out the strategy for protests.

Meanwhile, a Twitter campaign calling people to reject "RSS textbooks" and "Brahminical textbooks" attracted traction. Many pointed out that most of the members of the textbook revision committee were from one community and most of the texts newly added were also by authors from the same community, while those dropped were mostly by progressive writers and those from oppressed communities.

Many tweets also questioned the qualification of Mr. Chakrathirtha.

Priyanka to campaign for State Assembly polls next year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

State Congress president D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said the party's national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has agreed to campaign for the State Assembly elections next year.

Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, he said: "We have said that she should spend time for the State during Assembly elections and she has agreed to it."

This comes amid speculation that a section of the State Congress leaders, including Mr. Shivakumar, want Ms. Priyanka to contest the June 10 Rajya Sabha polls from the State, as they consider it may benefit the party during the Assembly polls next year.

Mr. Shivakumar had recently said the party wants Ms. Priyanka to concentrate on the South, where elections are coming up.

Mr. Shivakumar's visit to the national capital came amid talks about differences between him and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah regarding probable candidates recommended to the high command for the upcoming MLC polls in the State.

Mr. Shivakumar said he had come to the national capital for party work and to finalise list of candidates for Council seats.

State signs pact with Lulu Group for setting up malls

A pact on Lulu investing ₹2,000 crore was signed at Davos

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government on Monday signed an agreement with Lulu Group International, Abu Dhabi, for setting up four shopping malls, hypermarkets, and agri-processing units in the State, with an investment of ₹2,000 crore.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani inaugurating the Karnataka pavilion at the Davos summit in Switzerland. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The proposed investment would generate 10,000 jobs and investment would start coming to the State from this fiscal year (2022-23).

Industries Department Additional Chief Secretary E.V. Ramana Reddy and Lulu Group International Director A.V. Ananth Ram signed the pact in the presence of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Industries Minister Murgesh Nirani are attending the World Economic Forum summit in Davos, Switzerland.

The State government will facilitate the group to obtain necessary permissions/clearances/approvals from the departments concerned with incentives as per prevailing rules/regulations/policies in the state to set up shopping malls and hypermarkets, the agreement said.

The Lulu Group had already set up a mega shopping mall on Magadi Road in Bengaluru.

Other business meetings

Mr. Bommai also met Hero Group CEO Pawan Munjal and discussed investment opportunities in the State. He also met Siemens Healthineers CEO Bernd Montag and discussed investment potential in the health sector.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Bommai held a round-table discussion with Jaggi Vasudev of Isha Foundation and discussed issues related to environment and climate change.

The Chief Minister's presence at the World Economic Forum summit gains significance in the light of the State government holding a three-day Global Investor Meet (GIM) called "Invest Karnataka 2022" in Bengaluru from November 2, 2022.

Mr Bommai on Monday held talks with heads of Jubilant Group, Hitachi and Siemens companies at Davos.

The Chief Minister invited the company to explore the investment opportunities in pharma and FMCG sectors in the State. He made a pitch for the FMCG Park being established in Dharwad and explained the incentive package being offered by the State to draw the investors to set up their units here.

Jubilant Food Works has decided to set up its centralised Kitchen and Jubilant Biosys is keen to establish its R&D unit in a 10 acre plot at Devanahalli. Presently about 9000 persons are working with Jubilant in the State.

Hitachi has conveyed its interest during the talks to set up an EV Charging infrastructure unit in the State. The company has evinced interest to explore the opportunities in Energy and Digitalisation sectors considering the immense talent pool available in Bengaluru. The company is all set to inaugurate its Energy Quality Instrument Unit at Doddaballapur, said a release issued by the government.

Hitachi Energy has its head office in Bengaluru and it is building an Engineering Center which would engage about 2000 engineers.

Siemens is taking up two projects in Bengaluru focussing on Magnetic Imaging and Diagnostics and a health related R&D project. The company planned to lay the foundation stone for setting up a medical equipment manufacturing unit at Bommasandra in September 2022 to cater to the domestic market. Mr Bommai has been invited for the programme. The company currently has about 2000 engineers.

The State government has assured special incentives for the company to set up its production unit for modern medical equipment.

Representatives of Siemens and the State government also discussed about the 'Beyond Bengaluru' project to draw investments to Tumakuru, Hubballi-Dharwad and Mysuru cities. (eom)

Karnataka govt. set to formulate design policy

'It will host largest design fest in Nov.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government will formulate and implement a design policy and will host world's largest design festival 'Bengaluru Design Festival', along with Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS 22), in November, said IT/BT and Science & Technology Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

C.N. Ashwath Narayan

During the meeting with the officials of the World Design Council (WDC), World Design Organisation (WDO), and UK Design Council in London on Monday, the Minister confirmed the State's interest to formulate and implement the design policy for Karnataka.

The policy would attribute inputs from the national design policy and seek inputs from WDC to come up with a framework and structure, he said.

WDC extends support

Mr. Narayan said the WDC has extended its support to implement State design policy and also to integrate the 'Design Thinking' as a part of the school and college curriculum in Karnataka.

Further, he said: "The pilot project for the design thinking in school project can be done in selected government schools and based on the impact can scale up the project across the State. The IT Department will take the lead to formulate and implement the design policy for the State."

"The proposed design policy, design district, and design education will put Karnataka in the global design circle and it will help to drive investments and jobs creation in the creative sector of the State," claimed Paula Graham Gazzard, Chair of Council, World Design Council.

The Minister invited the officials to the State for further discussions and proceedings.

Echo machines donated to Jayadeva hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research has got two high-end 2D Echocardiography Colour Doppler machines costing around ₹60 lakh.

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research now has a total of 36 echo machines. • BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

They were donated by Rotary Bangalore Palmville (a club under Rotary District 3190) in association with the club's CSR partner- Inflow Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

This echocardiography machine is used for basic evaluation of all cardiac problems for diagnosis and management.

Institute Director C.N. Manjunath said the institute now has a total of 36 echo machines. "Over 1,000 echocardiograms are done daily at the hospital. The two new machines are a great value addition. Annually, we conduct two lakh echocardiogram procedures, the highest in the world," he said.

The machines were handed over on May 17 to Dr. Manjunath by Rotarian Fazal Mehmood (Governor, District 3190) and Tirupathi Rao Vaddi, CFO of Inflow Technologies in the presence of Rotarian O.P. Khanna, founder of Needy Heart Foundation.

The club signed an MoU with Jayadeva institute to conduct joint camps to create awareness about cardiac diseases and conduct screening camps in underprivileged communities in rural Karnataka.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM

IFB No.	[illegible]
Eligibility	Registered Class I Bidders (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.111, Sambakulam, Ganesh Nagar, Mathuthavani, Madurai – 625 007
Sale of Bid & Place of Sale	26.05.2022 to 08.06.2022 up to 17.45 hours. [illegible]
Downloading website	www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.twadboard.tn.gov.in. (Free of cost)
Pre Bid meeting	02.06.2022 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	10.06.2022 before 15.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee in person or through post. This office will not be held responsible for postal delay if any.
Bid opening	10.06.2022 at 15.30 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee

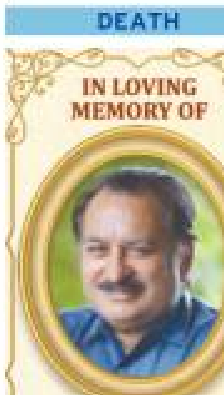
Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs.in crore)	Bid security (Rs.in lakhs)
	Outsourcing of Operation and Maintenance of CWSS including repair and rectification works (For the period upto 31.03.2023)		
1	CWSS to Dindigul Corporation, 5 RTPs, 1 UTP and 816 Habitations in Dindigul and Karur Districts.	5.37	2.60
2	CWSS to 750 Rural Habitations in Virudhunagar District.	4.76	3.57
3	CWSS to 7 TPs, and 385 habitations in Virudhunagar District.	3.94	3.29

DIPR/ 3498 /TENDER/2022 Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Shri Boddupalli Ramachandramurthy (Aka B. Ravi Ram)
S/o Late Shri B.Ravindranath & Late Smt B.Kanaka Durga

Passed away peacefully on 20 May 2022 in Chennai

A Kind Father remembered for his charismatic, magnetic personality and an accomplished Ghazal Singer

Boddupalli Radha
Indukuri RaviKhiron &
Aparna Boddupalli
Harikrishna & Kavitha
Grandsons:
I.RajKumar, B.Tarun & B.Shreyas
Email : hrkavi7@gmail.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

15th ANNIVERSARY

R.RAMACHANDRAN (RRC)
1st Jan 1924 – 24th May 2007
Fondly Remembered by
FAMILY, FRIENDS & HAMSADHWANI

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Nominations invited

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka has invited nominations for Karnataka State Environment awards 2021-22.

According to an official release, the awards will be bestowed on individuals / organizations in recognition of their contribution in the field of Environment conservation and environment management.

The last date for submitting applications/nominations to The Principal Secretary to the Government, (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Room No. 708, 7th Floor, M.S. Building (Gate IV), Bengaluru-560001, is May 31, 2022.

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan,
H.B.Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax: - +91-674-2391444; E-mail – mail@watcoodisha.in; md@watcoodisha.in

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) - Bid Identification No. WATCO(W)-10/2022-23, Dtd.21.05.2022
WATCO No.2080, Date: 21.05.2022

1.	Name of the work	1. Implementation of 24X7 Water Supply - under Sujala for Chakeisiani & Sameigadia DMAs in ward no.05, CMC, Bhubaneswar.
2.	Estimated Cost	Rs.709.77 Lakh
3.	Period of completion	12 (Twelve) Months
4.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 11.00 AM of Dt.02.06.2022 to 5.00 PM of 16.06.2022
5.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	5.00 PM of 16.06.2022
6.	Date & Time of opening of technical bids	12.30 PM of 17.06.2022
	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	CEO, WATCO Telefax:- 0674-2391444. E-Mail : mail@watcoodisha.in; md@watcoodisha.in

7. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in"
C-372 CEO, WATCO
OIPR-13194/11/0028/2223

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.TW-IT/OT/02/2022-23

Office of CGM (IT), OPTCL on behalf of OPTCL invites bids in e-tender mode only from reputed eligible bidders for " **Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of HP Server & Storage in PDC, OPTCL**" for an estimated price of Rs.97,98,548/- (Rupees Ninety Seven Lakhs ninety eight thousand five hundred forty eight only) including GST for a period of 2 years. Complete set of bidding documents are available on **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** portal and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in** w.e.f 24.05.2022 (10.00Hrs) to 16.06.2022 (16.00 Hrs).

HIPR-10/2022-23 S/d- CGM (IT)
CAD-613 OIPR-04011/11/0031/2223

Kerala HC grants bail to P.C. George

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday granted interim bail till Thursday to Kerala Janapaksham chairman P.C. George in a case registered in connection with the alleged inflammatory remarks made by him at Vennala in Kochi.

Justice Gopinath P. granted him bail on the condition that he shall not make such controversial statements to the media or in public. The court made it clear that the bail order would not affect the consideration of the petition filed by the prosecution for cancellation of the bail granted to him in a similar case registered in Thiruvananthapuram.

Dileep influenced politicians: survivor

Kerala actor assault case takes a new turn; victim alleges attempts to sabotage further probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The 2017 Kerala actor sexual assault case took a new turn on Monday with the survivor approaching the High Court seeking to restrain the Crime Branch from filing its final report in a related case. In her writ petition, the victim has alleged that Dileep had unlawfully influenced politicians in the ruling front and attempted to derail further probe in the case relating to the conspiracy hatched by the actor to murder the investigation officers involved in the assault case.

Dileep's lawyers had interfered with the administration of justice by tampering with the evidence in the case and illegally influenced witnesses. Attempts by the police to investigate the role of Dileep's lawyers had not been successful as the senior counsel and his associates had substantial clout with the ruling party.

Dileep

It was learnt that some assurances were secured by those lawyers from political authorities that further investigation in the conspiracy case would not impact them. The political and administrative higher-ups had an agenda that no investigation was carried out into the illegal access, tampering and transmission of the contents of the memory card kept in the custody of the trial court. The government, which had supported the cause of the petitioner, has now backtracked, she said.

She alleged that the act of the presiding officer of the Additional Special Sessions Court was highly suspicious. Though the investigation officers had filed a petition for sending the memory card to the forensic laboratory, no steps had been taken by the court to send it to the laboratory.

The tampering of the memory card may help the accused to take undue advantage. Being the victim, the petitioner had the fundamental right to get a fair trial and justice as envisaged under Article 21 of the Constitution. The petitioner also had a fundamental right to know who had illegally accessed the memory card, tampered or transmitted the same as it was a violation of her fundamental right to privacy. It was the duty of the court to ascertain how the the memory card was tampered with, while it was in the safe custody of the court, and who were the culprits.

The conduct of the presiding officer in obstructing the investigation in this matter clearly showed that the officer wanted to illegally help the culprits. The trial court judge's conduct, if condoned or tolerated, would be a disgrace to the judicial system, she said.

The survivor pleaded for a directive to the sessions court to forward the memory card to the State Forensic Science Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram, for examination.

She also sought a directive to the State Police Chief to conduct an investigation under the supervision of the High Court into the change of the hash value of the micro SD card seized by the investigation officer on February 20, 2017 and take stringent action against the persons responsible for illegally accessing the card.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Odisha. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty winds/ hail likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	33	34.1	23.1	Kozhikode	4	31.5	24.4
Ahmedabad	–	41.2	28.8	Kurnool	–	37.5	25.7
Aizawl	8	27.0	19.3	Lucknow	–	35.8	25.6
Allahabad	–	40.3	26.7	Madurai	–	39.1	27.0
Bengaluru	–	30.3	21.0	Mangaluru	10	31.3	23.6
Bhopal	–	40.0	28.0	Mumbai	–	34.6	29.0
Bhubaneswar	–	35.6	23.9	Mysuru	–	32.0	21.2
Chandigarh	12.2	39.0	20.3	New Delhi	12	31.5	17.2
Chennai	–	40.1	28.5	Patna	–	36.4	24.0
Coimbatore	–	33.4	22.4	Port Blair	1	28.9	24.6
Dehradun	25	29.4	16.9	Puducherry	–	38.2	26.7
Gangtok	–	22.4	14.0	Pune	–	36.2	25.3
Goa	2	33.2	26.5	Raipur	–	41.4	27.6
Guwahati	11	33.2	23.2	Ranchi	–	35.6	21.6
Hubballi	–	32.0	23.0	Shillong	11	23.5	15.8
Hyderabad	–	37.8	25.6	Shimla	25	26.9	11.4
Imphal	–	29.4	20.4	Srinagar	1	22.8	12.6
Jaipur	–	33.8	29.8	Thiruvananthapuram	4	31.5	24.4
Kochi	7	29.0	25.0	Tiruchi	–	37.6	26.5
Kohima	–	23.4	15.6	Vijayawada	–	42.2	29.0
Kolkata	–	35.4	25.6	Visakhapatnam	–	35.0	28.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	12	94	186	130	
Bengaluru	7	17	53	105	98	
Chennai	12	28	49	55	48	
Delhi	8	31	39	198	175	
Hyderabad	17	21	–	52	115	
Kolkata	24	18	20	126	113	
Lucknow	5	72	25	122	144	
Mumbai	4	–	8	15	185	
Pune	–	22	53	75	69	
Visakhapatnam	17	51	8	89	133	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bathinda, Punjab recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 287 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Won't quash CBI chargesheet against A.P. MLC: Karnataka HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has declined to quash the chargesheet filed against Vakati Narayana Reddy, A.P. MLC, for allegedly cheating a government-owned industrial financial institution of ₹190 crore.

He has been accused of securing loan based on the inflated valuation of the lands mortgaged by VNR Infrastructures Ltd. (which is now under liquidation), of which he was the managing director and corporate guarantor for the loans.

Justice K. Natarajan dismissed the petition while observing that "by looking to the entire material on record, there is no case made out by Mr. Reddy to quash the criminal proceedings, he has to face the trial and take all the contentions as defence during trial." The CBI had registered the First Information Report in May 2017 based on the complaint lodged by IFCI Ltd., a government of India undertaking, and the chargesheet was filed against the company, Mr. Reddy and others in March 2018.

The company had mortgaged several acres of non-agricultural lands in two locations, one situated in Mehboobnagar district and another situated at Rangareddy district in Telangana State, to secure the loans of ₹90 crore and ₹100 crore respectively during 2014-15.

The two property valuation firms, appointed by the IFCI, had given separate reports indicating that value of the lands in Mehboobnagar was worth between ₹257 crore and ₹282 crore; and the lands at Rangareddy district were worth between ₹320 crore and ₹325 crore.

As the company stopped repaying loan within four months of release of the loan, the IFCI initiated recovery proceedings and when another firm was appointed to value the mortgaged lands, the shocking detail swere unearthed that the lands at Mehboobnagar was worth only around ₹24 crore and lands at Rangareddy were worth only ₹6 crore.

It was alleged by the IFCI that two valuation firms in connivance with the company, Mr. Reddy and some employees of IFCI had inflated the land values for availing loan. The court declined to accept Mr. Reddy's contention that it is a civil dispute as the IFCI had initiated recovery proceedings against the company as per the law and hence no criminal proceedings can be initiated.

Annual mango mela inaugurated in Bengaluru

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The annual mango and jackfruit mela organised by the Horticulture Producer's Cooperative and Marketing Society (HOPCOMS) was inaugurated on Monday at the HOPCOMS head office near Lalbagh by Munirathna, Minister of Horticulture. The mela will go on at all stalls of HOPCOMS until the end of the season for both fruits.

Mango mela was inaugurated at HOPCOMS near Lalbagh in Bengaluru on Monday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A total of 13 varieties of mangoes including Badami, Dashahari and Kalapad will be available at discounted rates and around seven varieties of jackfruit will also be sold at the mela, HOPCOMS officials said. "Since many years, keeping in mind the welfare of both farmers and consumers, HOPCOMS has been organising melas for seasonal fruits. While providing a good market for the farmers, the melas will provide top quality produce to the customers," said a press release by HOPCOMS.

Last week, the Horticulture Department also launched a mango mela at malls in the city which will go on till June 5. The department said that information regarding farming practices, grafting, ripening and processing of mangoes will be provided during the mela.

This year, owing to factors like weather, production of mangoes has taken a hit in the state. During the inauguration, the minister urged public to support the mango farmers.

Produce air ticket: HC tells Vijay Babu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday directed actor-producer Vijay Babu, an accused in a rape case filed by an actor, to produce the ticket for travelling back to the country. The court added that it would consider his anticipatory bail once he produced the ticket.

Justice Gopinath P. made the remarks when the anticipatory bail petition filed by the actor came up for hearing. The petitioner was abroad when the investigation was launched, his counsel submitted. In fact, the police had taken steps to impound his passport. Therefore, he was unable to come here.

The court then said, "Let him come here and make himself available to the jurisdiction of the court."

Catching them young

Traffic lessons: The Hyderabad police launching the Road Safety Summer Camp for school students at a Traffic Training Institute in the city on Monday. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

YSRCP MLC held on charges of murdering his driver

He had allegedly dumped the body in his car, fled the spot

STAFF REPORTER
KAKINADA

The Kakinada police on Monday arrested YSRCP MLC Ananta Satya Udaya Bhaskar for his alleged involvement in the murder of 26-year-old Dalit youth, Veedhi Subramanyam, on May 19 here. Subramanyam was Mr. Uday Bhaskar's driver, who had recently quit the job.

Kakinada SP M. Raveendranath Babu said the police arrested the MLC on Monday on charges of murder and atrocity against the Dalit youth. The MLC had been admitted to GGH-Kakinada for medical examination.

The case was registered as per the SCs and the STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The SP said Mr. Udaya Bhaskar would be produced before the local court on Monday night.

Family members and locals mourning the death of Veedhi Subramanyam during his last rites on Sunday.

The arrest was made based on the inquest report containing the statements of the victim's family and the post-mortem report, which was submitted by the GGH-Kakinada doctors. However, the police are yet to reveal the nature, exact cause of death and the *modus operandi* of the MLC in the case. According to Mr. Babu, the sections in the case had been altered from 'suspicious death' to murder, and atrocity charges had been framed against the MLC.

The controversy erupted in the early hours of May 20 soon after Mr. Udaya Bhaskar allegedly dumped the body of the youth in his car in front of the latter's residence and fled.

Husband found guilty in Kerala dowry death case

Quantum of sentence will be pronounced today

STAFF REPORTER
KOLLAM

A court in Kerala on Monday found Kiran Kumar, accused in his wife Vismaya's dowry death case, guilty. The quantum of sentence will be pronounced on Tuesday.

Vismaya, a 24-year-old BAMS student, was found dead in June 2021. As per the 500-page chargesheet, she was forced to take the extreme step due to persistent dowry harassment.

Kiran Kumar coming out of a court in Kollam on Monday after being convicted in the dowry death case. • C. SURESHKUMAR

The Kollam Additional Sessions Court found Kumar guilty under Sections 304 (B) (dowry death), 498 (A) (matrimonial cruelty for dowry), and 306 (abetment to suicide) of the Indian Penal Code along with Sections 3 and 4 of Dowry Prohibition Act. The court cancelled the bail granted to him.

Vismaya's father said his daughter finally got justice.

Digital evidence, including over 120 audio clips, from their phones, was presented in the court as key proof. It included clips in which Vismaya tells her father about the harassment at her husband's home.

Chargesheets filed in Virudhunagar rape case

Separate one filed for juvenile accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIRUDHUNAGAR

The Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID) on Monday filed voluminous charge sheets in the case relating to the blackmail and repeated rape of a woman by seven persons, including three juveniles. Separate charge sheets were filed against the accused adults and the minor boys.

The CB-CID Deputy Superintendent of Police, S.S. Vinothini, filed a 806-page charge sheet against the four adults – Hariharan, Madasamy, Praveen and Junaith Ahmed – before Additional district Judge B.C. Gopinath, who holds additional charge of the Special Court for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The victim belongs to a Scheduled Caste. The investigating agency has charged the accused under 16 sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Information Technology Act and the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Ms. Vinothini also produced around 90 documents, video and audio clippings and the mobile phones of the accused. The woman was allegedly blackmailed with a video clip of hers and subjected to repeated sexual assault by the accused. The case was initially registered in March by the Virudhunagar police,

Kerala HC allows third party intervention in ivory case

It cannot be said that public interest is not involved: judge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Two public interest litigants who had approached a trial court seeking to oppose the withdrawal of prosecution against actor Mohanlal in the illegal ivory possession case have the right to intervene in the case, ordered the Kerala High Court on Monday.

Mohanlal

The single judge of the High Court also set aside the order of the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court-3, Perumbavoor, which had earlier dismissed the intervention petitions filed by A.A. Poulose of Ernakulam and James Mathew of Pathanamthitta. The assistant public prosecutor had filed a petition before the magistrate court to withdraw the criminal proceedings against the actor by stating that continuing the case would be a waste of the court's time and a futile exercise.

However, the High Court held that the reasoning of the trial court that the petitioners had no *locus standi* to be heard in the petition seeking the withdrawal of prosecution was incorrect. In her order, Justice Mary Joseph held that the petitioners were members of society who had the right to see that the prosecution launched for an offence affecting society is withdrawn based on a valid reason.

The offence involved in the case was one relating to wildlife. Therefore, it cannot be said that public interest was not involved , the judge noted. The Forest department had booked a case against Mohanlal in 2012 for the illegal possession of two pairs of tusks.

All hands on deck

After Centre's duty cut, States must do the same with their taxes

The Union government's decision on Saturday to cut the excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹8 and ₹6, respectively, is a belated acknowledgement that April's multi-year highs in inflation were spurred in significant measure by high fuel prices. Coming more than six months after its last duty reduction – on Deepavali eve – the latest cut is a welcome step to ease the burgeoning cost burden on producers and consumers. With the price of the Indian basket of crude oil having risen by more than 33% since November, and with a bulk of the surge coming in the wake of the Ukraine war in February, state-run oil marketing companies had raised retail fuel prices sharply over a 16-day period starting March 22. Largely as a result of the higher fuel prices and quickening food costs, inflation based on the Consumer Price Index accelerated to a 95-month high of 7.8% last month, while wholesale price gains soared to a multi-decade high of 15.1%. S&P Global's April PMI surveys showed that both services and manufacturing companies had in fact flagged the surging input costs as a potential dampener of demand. A desperate RBI decided to stop waiting for Government intervention to cool the supply-side factors fanning inflation and opted instead to raise interest rates earlier this month.

The extent of concern about the inaction on the part of the Government was reflected at the Monetary Policy Committee's two-day meeting earlier this month where a member observed: "Government supply-side action can also reduce future rate rises, output sacrifice and borrowing costs. Both central and State taxes are buoyant... giving them space to cut taxes on fuels." Now that the Centre has acted to ease some of the inflationary pressure emanating from the high excise duty component in fuel prices, the onus is on the States to sink their political differences over the Government's past approach to taxing fuels and help reduce the burden on the common man by paring their respective State taxes as well. With the war in Europe showing no immediate signs of easing, the economic fallout, particularly on global energy and food costs, remains highly uncertain and continues to point to the rising risks of faster inflation coupled with slower growth. In such a volatile scenario, fiscal measures that help cool price pressures and leave an extra rupee or two in the consumer's pocket can only aid to undergird vital consumption demand in the economy. Ultimately, all States must realise that the best way to safeguard their revenue interests would be to ensure that the growth momentum in the economy as a whole remains well supported. This is a moment that calls for all hands on deck. The sooner policymakers at the different levels of government, and of all political hues, realise this and act in concert, the better.

Grand slam

ATP and WTA did the right thing by stripping Wimbledon of ranking points

Moves by the ATP and WTA – governing bodies of men's and women's tennis tours – to strip Wimbledon of its primary currency, the all-important ranking points, for the 2022 edition represent the harshest rebuke to the autonomous overreach by the oldest Grand Slam event in declining entries from Russian and Belarusian players. The ATP, on Friday, said the move was to protect the "integrity of the sport", which was built upon "merit-based tournament entry" (through rankings) and a level playing field. The WTA concurred, basing its decision on its foundational principle of equal opportunity, championed by the legendary Billie Jean King. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) followed suit by removing points from the Junior and Wheelchair competitions. As a result, the most coveted tennis tournament in the world is set to be reduced to an exhibition event, barring a rethink from the feuding parties. A large-scale player drop-out may not materialise, for Wimbledon holds too much allure, both in terms of prestige and prize money. But the saga is sure to upend the sport's pecking orders. Tennis rankings work over a rolling 52-week period, updated by adding points earned in the previous week and subtracting those from the equivalent week in the previous year. Now, World No.1 Novak Djokovic's 2000 points for winning the 2021 edition will be removed without any addition this year, causing severe disruptions in the upper echelons of men's tennis.

More broadly, the fiasco is likely to end up leaving everyone bruised. Wimbledon has rightly been penalised for triggering the controversy by unfairly targeting Russians and Belarusians for the actions of their political leaders, despite the likes of World No.2 Daniil Medvedev and World No.7 Andrey Rublev publicly calling for peace. But the pushback by the ATP, WTA and ITF will unfortunately inflict collateral damage on scores of players, especially those in the lower rungs, otherwise eligible to earn points. While the ATP has correctly stressed that an acceptable solution could have been found if Wimbledon had not chosen to act unilaterally based on "informal guidance" from the British government, it is a fact that tennis's seven governing bodies – ATP, WTA, ITF and the four Majors – mostly work at cross-purposes and act in self-interest. The ATP itself has not walked the talk, continuing to hand out a disproportionately high number of ranking points to its flagship multi-nation team competition ATP Cup despite the tournament being a closed-door event. Wimbledon has, for now, stopped at expressing its disappointment and reserved its position, with the ongoing French Open providing fans with a welcome distraction. But any attempt to further this powerplay by driving another wedge, instead of charting out a progressive path, will only splinter the sport more.

A far more dangerous moment now than in 1992

The opening up of Gyanvapi is not about history; it is about reclamation and is central to a larger supremacist project

SEEMA CHISHTI

Exactly 30 years after the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, the Gyanvapi mosque dispute offers less *déjà vu* and more striking contrasts in the two scenarios. Like architecture distinguishes clearly between rubble and ruin, we must look clearly at the differences between the Ayodhya matter then and the dispute over Varanasi's Gyanvapi mosque in 2022 now. The differences are stark.

There is an Act now

The first dissimilarity is the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 which did not exist when the political movement for Ayodhya caught steam. Also, Ayodhya was out of its ambit. The Supreme Court verdict in 2019 went on to underline the importance of the 1991 Act in 10 pages (pages 116-125) and how it "protects and secures the fundamental values of the Constitution". Agreeing with the rationale of the law, the five-judge Bench said; "The Places of Worship Act imposes a non-derogable obligation towards enforcing our commitment to secularism under the Indian Constitution."

In not framing the matter in the letter and spirit of its own order just three years ago, and instead, trying to 'balance', the law and its interpreters are enabling a significant and worrying change in India. It is not a Babri moment, as Babri was to be an exception with the law applicable to all other such matters. If this goes on, it will open a Pandora's box. Similar and multiple cases are bound to begin mushrooming; the plea to remove Mathura's Shahi Idgah and dig around the Qutub Minar have reached the courts. As Sarvepalli Gopal writes in the introduction to *Anatomy of a Confrontation*, such conflicts bring into "sharp focus since 1947, a sickness which free India has not been able to shake off". If the idea of the 1991 Act was to insulate the Republic from the implications of Babri, allowing the Varanasi issue gain momentum suggests exacerbating the "sickness". The intention was to draw a line under 1947 and bring quietus after the Ayodhya dispute. Thirty years on, despite witnessing the ruptures that Babri led to, if Gyanvapi is allowed to fester, it would signal that India is re-opening issues that the Constitution had settled. That can only signal more upheaval.

An institutional collapse

What also distinguishes the present moment from Ayodhya is the state of India's institutions. What separates democracy from a mobocracy is the presence of modern institutions. It is only through their independent functioning that the promise of the Constitution is honoured. The job of independent institutions in a democracy is to keep asking questions of the executive and ensure that it acts in accordance with the Constitution it has sworn by. But India has seen a dramatic decline in institutional independence. This decline underlies India's sharp democratic backslide. India is classified as an 'electoral autocracy' (V-Dem Institute), 'partly free' (Freedom House), scores 'at the level of 1975' when a formal Emergency was in place (International IDEA) and it is now among the 30 worst countries of 180, as far as freedom of the press goes (RSF). The World Values Survey and the Pew Research Center tell us that it is in India that support for civil rights as a feature of democracy and even democracy has fallen the most, since 2015. In such times, if Gyanvapi was to be a start of something else, then there would not even be counter-pressures from institutions like 30 years ago. The Justice J.S. Verma report, (when he was National Human Rights Commission chairman) about violence in 2002 is unimaginable today.

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Another difference from 1992 is that economic liberalisation had yet to play itself out then. It was an 'old India' if fans of liberalisation are to be believed. There was a view that altered economics would help destroy India's regressive social mores. This was touted as the big change – post the Berlin Wall and post the Soviet Union – that general economic uplift would deal a death blow to old identity issues and liberate its people. But 30 years on, the promise of quick economic progress has not been able to fell identity politics. Considerable academic research would nudge us in the opposite direction. A hardened and narrower understanding of identity politics has gripped the world. Today, well after liberalisation has resulted in more economic inequality and record levels of concentration of wealth and cronyism, India finds itself asking fraught questions with ferocity. The economic crisis facing India today, apart from steep and widening inequalities, also has grim unemployment figures to reckon with. None of the expectations that the 1990s held for India – whether imagined or real – are now in the air. Gyanvapi being fanned now would do so in a world where the hopes of economic liberalisation as a panacea are behind it and the fortuitous global conditions of the early 1990s are not there.

Ideological, not just political

There was a strong political incentive behind the mass movement and the Rath yatra that propelled the Ayodhya issue onto centrestage in the late 1980s. It yielded durable benefits to the political party which led it. Currently, to see it as mere instrumentalism would be missing the significance of what 2022 is about. With two successive electoral majorities, this is not about distracting the voter from the state of the economy or noise to garner support for elections. This is part of a core ideological belief of the ruling dispensation. Ideally, it would want courts to just award it to majoritarian mobs, minus a mass movement or mobilisation. For the ruling regime, this path is not seen as a crisis but as part of a desired end. So it is unlikely that the government in office will feel compelled to tell off mobs and people who are raising issues, long thought settled.

The opening up of Gyanvapi is not about history. Indian history is too complex to be reduced to a two-dimensional Hindu versus Muslim framing. For thousands of years, India has been witness to a spectrum of stories of both coexistence and conflict; Shaivites facing off with Vaishnavites, Brahmins making a case against Shramans, Buddhists and Jains versus everyone else and disputes across many more lines. Events here were not very different from how medieval Christianity and Islam played out. The Gyanvapi dispute is about reclamation and is central to the larger supremacist project. This cannot be divorced from frenetic name-changing, the anti-conversion and cattle laws, lynchings, changes in official history, amped up hate on mass media and other bids to scrub out Muslims and distort India's rich past.

Well before Islam found its way to Kodungallur (Kerala) or came across the Hindukush, India was a place with complex inter-community ties between various sects and people who called it home. It is an established historical fact that multiple migrations made India. As Firaq Gorakhpuri (also known as Prof. Raghupati Sahay) said: "*Sar zamin-e-Hind par aqwam-e-aalam ke, Firaq, Kafile aate rahe aur Hindustan banta gaya*" (Many caravans came into these parts and went onto constitute India)". The year 1950, with Indian composite nationalism at the centre, was a far-sighted attempt at drawing a line under a million mutinies, especially after 1947.

India's Constitution offered everyone emancipation. Ideological predecessors of the present regime made no bones about not sharing those values and believed in India as a nation-for-Hindus only, in the mirror image of what Muslim separatists managed to secure with Pakistan. Eight years after 2014, it has been hard for the Government to claim brownie points globally for being 'exceptional', as bad news of events on the ground have been hard to keep hidden. As 'exceptionalism' gets sucked out and India unspools into being known as another South Asian ethnic supremacist venture, it can only shrink the India story, and certainly not help it achieve 'greatness'.

A road versus alley

It is possible that because we now have the benefit of hindsight from 1992, we choose differently. But that would mean for the ruling party and followers, to jettison Golwalkar's objective for non-Hindus; "claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment, not even citizen's rights" (Golwalkar, *We, or Our Nationhood Defined*, 1939: page 62). Mahatma Gandhi's assassin, Godse's hate and violence, must be loudly denounced again by those who have political power. The path of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Sunni Muslim nationalism in Pakistan, Sinhalese supremacism or Myanmar's journey must serve as a warning and not a manual for India. Gyanvapi, which means the 'fount of knowledge' or wisdom, offers a choice now. We could pull back and take a long sip. Thirty years after Babri Masjid, we know the dark alley the other option leads to. It may be far too narrow a path for India to quickly reverse out of.

Seema Chishti is a journalist based in Delhi

A Harvard branch in India, prospects and challenges

It will be worthwhile for policymakers to look at the experience of other countries for positive and negative lessons

PHILIP G. ALTBACH & ELDHO MATHEWS

India, after half a century of keeping its higher education doors closed to foreigners, is on the cusp of opening itself to the world. The traditional orientation to swadeshi that has characterised much of Indian thinking, at least in higher education, is changing. The wide-ranging National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 promises higher education reforms in many areas, and internationalisation is prominent among them. Among the underlying ideas is to strengthen India's "soft power" through higher education collaboration, bringing new ideas and institutions from abroad to stimulate reform and show "best practice", and in general to ensure that Indian higher education, for the first time, is a global player.

New thinking

An example of the new thinking was part of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's April 2022 visit to India, which featured a visit to the innovative Gujarat Biotechnology University and strengthening the United Kingdom-India academic collaboration. The Gujarat Biotechnology University is an example for new models of international academic partnerships emerging in India. It was established by the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of Gujarat in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, which assists the Gujarat Biotechnology University in developing strategies with regard to teaching, learning, research and innovation, and quality assurance, among others. This is a unique model in the present Indian academic context as there are many regulatory hurdles that still exist in the country with regard to international academic partnerships, which includes the operation of international branch campuses.

Currently, India does not allow the entry and the operation of foreign university branch campuses. The NEP 2020 was a turning point for the entry of foreign universities as it recommended allowing foreign universities ranked in the "top 100" category to operate in India – under somewhat unrealistic conditions. In February 2022, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech, announced that "world-class foreign universities and institutions would be allowed in the planned business district in Gujarat's GIFT City" (or the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) and they would be free from domestic regulations to facilitate availability of high-end human resources.

The Minister's statement was a marked departure from the NEP 2020 recommendations that allow only the "top 100" category to operate in India. A similar accommodating stance could be observed in the (written) reply given by the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar, in the Lok Sabha in March. He noted that two foreign institutions, from France and Italy, had expressed interest in setting up campuses in India. However, the Italian institute "Istituto Marangoni", is not a university. It was reported that in April 2022, the University Grants Commission (UGC) formed a committee to draft regulations to allow foreign institutions in the "top 500" category to establish campuses in India – realising that more flexibility was needed.

Establishing branch campuses of top foreign universities is a good idea as this will bring much-needed global experience to India. But is this practical? And will overseas universities be interested? Globally, branch campuses, of which there are around 300 now, provide a mixed picture. Many are aimed at making money for the sponsoring university – and this is not what India wants. And some have proved to be unstable. A recent example in this regard is the ending of the decade-long partnership between Yale University and the National University of Singapore in running the Yale-NUS College in Singapore.

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Current initiatives

There has been modest growth of various forms of partnerships between Indian and foreign institutions. The joint PhD programmes offered by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay-Monash Research Academy and the University of Queensland-Indian Institute of Technology Delhi Academy of Research (UQIDAR), both with Australian partners, are some examples. Another example is the Melbourne-India Postgraduate Academy (MIPA). It is a joint initiative of the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur with the University of Melbourne. MIPA provides students with an opportunity to earn a joint degree accredited both in India and Australia: from the University of Melbourne and one of the partnering Indian institutions. These partnerships suggest that India could offer opportunities for international branch campuses as well.

International branch campuses, if allowed, could function as a structurally different variant of India's private university sector. The establishment of foreign university branch campuses would encourage competition mainly between existing private universities and foreign branch institutions, but would have less impact on the public universities. Branch campuses, if effectively managed, could bring much needed new ideas about curriculum, pedagogy, and governance to Indian higher education – they could be a kind of educational laboratory.

Practical challenges

On the positive side, India is seen around the world as an important country and an emerging higher education power. It is the world's second largest "exporter" of students, with 4,61,792 students studying abroad (according to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics). And India has the world's second largest higher education system. Foreign countries and universities will be eager to establish a "beachhead" in India and interested in providing opportunities for home campus students to learn about Indian business, society, and culture to participate in growing trade and other relations.

Still, it will not be easy to attract foreign universities to India and even more difficult to create the conditions for them to flourish. Many of those top universities are already fully engaged overseas and would likely require incentives to set up in India. Further, there are smaller but highly regarded universities outside the 'top 500' category that might be more interested. Universities around the world that have academic specialisations focusing on India, that already have research or faculty ties in the country, or that have Non-Resident Indians (NRI) in senior management positions may be easier to attract. What is most important is to prevent profit-seekers from entering the Indian market and to encourage foreign institutions with innovative educational ideas and a long-term commitment. Many host countries have provided significant incentives, including building facilities and providing necessary infrastructure. Foreign universities are highly unlikely to invest significant funds up front.

More hurdles to cross

A big challenge will be India's "well-known" bureaucracy, especially the multiple regulators. If bureaucratic hurdles cannot be drastically cut, there will be no success in attracting branch campuses. In addition, a recent study underlined the fact that apart from allowing home institutions to repatriate surplus funds after tax clearance, a new accreditation mechanism, flexible visa rules for foreign students and faculty, financial incentives to offer programmes in priority areas should also be considered.

Branch campuses would be helpful in addressing skill requirements and providing examples of different approaches to higher education. It will be worthwhile to look at the experience of other countries for both positive and negative lessons. After examining national experiences elsewhere, clear policies can be implemented that may be attractive to foreign universities. Once policies are in place, the key to success will be relationships among universities – and not grandiose government schemes.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A strong signal needed

When the Places of Worship Act 1991 is abundantly clear that the status quo of religious places of worship should be maintained as it existed on August 15, 1947 one fails to understand why the judiciary is wasting time and energy by going into the question on whether a mosque was built over the ruins of a temple or not. The judiciary should be examining issues purely in the light of the law of the land, and not by frenzied calls for repairing 'historical wrongs'. Unless motivated attempts by communal elements to drag the judiciary into such disputes are nipped in the bud,the nation will be paying a heavy price in terms of social strife.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur, Kerala

Consider their feelings

Those who are making clear their rapturous excitement over the release of A.G. Perarivalan ought to note that the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi also affected many other families. Time may not heal their wounds. The political establishment in Tamil Nadu has acted immaturely. Perarivalan is no hero. The political euphoria is reprehensible.

M.R. ANAND,
Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh

Why vaccine mandates are essential

The court's view that the States' vaccine mandates are disproportionate could undermine community interest

TANISHK GOYAL
& RISHABH NARAIN SINGH

PTI

The recent Supreme Court verdict upholding the government's current vaccination policy deserves to be lauded. The court, however, held that restrictions imposed by States and Union Territories on unvaccinated individuals cannot be said to be proportionate as they sought to invade an individual's bodily integrity and personal autonomy under Article 21 of the Constitution. The court used the test of proportionality to scrutinise these vaccine mandates. The proportionality test is a standard of review that is invoked to keep a check on the infringement of bodily integrity and privacy of an individual by the state.

Misinterpreting proportionality

At the outset, the proportionality test requires any state action which purports to infringe on individual privacy and autonomy to satisfy the following conditions. One, the state action should be sanctioned by law; two, the proposed action should have a legitimate state aim; and three, the extent of interference by the proposed state action should be proportionate to the need for such interference. This essentially means that there should not exist any other less restrictive measure which can be employed to achieve the same legitimate state aim.

To the extent that the vaccine mandates of the States require partial or full vaccination of individuals as a precondition for accessing public spaces, services, or using public transportation, they can fully withstand the contours of the proportionality test, especially at a time when the state interest is as compelling as that of preventing the transmission of COVID-19 and the number of deaths. This has been illustrated forthwith.

First, the competency of the States to legislate and take effective measures on issues concerning 'public health' flows from Entry 6 of the State List of Schedule VII of the Constitution. The Disaster Management Act of 2005 and the Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897 empower the States to undertake effective measures to mitigate the harms caused during a medical emergency. As such, the States' actions have legislative backing.

Second, the legitimate aim of the state is unequivocally illustrated by the fact that inoculations can go a long way in preventing serious illness and reducing deaths in persons infected with COVID-19. In this regard, the Indian Council of Medical Research said that 92% of COVID-19 deaths in India this year occurred in unvaccinated individuals. Any vaccine mandate which nudges individuals to get inoculated in order to prevent deaths or further mutations of the virus has a legitimate state aim.

Third, the extent of interference exercised by the state with the privacy and bodily autonomy of an individual in making vaccination an essential precondition for availing of certain services cannot be said to be disproportionate. While we acknowledge that the third prong of the proportionality test requires the court to make a value judgment in terms of what measures may or may not qualify as disproportionate, we would be remiss here if we lost sight of the fact that any less restrictive measure would have failed to achieve mass inoculation, which lies in the vanguard of our battle against the pandemic.

Safeguard community interest

The imposition of vaccine mandates to safeguard community interests of the society is not unprecedented. In 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* held that the city of Cambridge in Massachusetts could punish citizens who rejected smallpox vaccinations. In 1901, a smallpox outbreak raged across the Northeast and Cambridge, and the state responded by mandating that all adults obtain smallpox vaccinations or face a $5 fine. In 1902, Pastor Henning Jacobson refused to get vaccinated and pay the fee, claiming that he and his son had been harmed by prior immunisation. Jacobson contended in the State court that the legislation violated both the Massachusetts and Federal Constitutions. His claims were denied by State courts, including the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Jacobson argued before the Supreme Court that "compulsion to introduce disease into a healthy system is a violation of liberty." The Supreme Court dismissed Jacobson's arguments and said: "A community has the right to protect itself against an epidemic of disease which threatens the safety of its members." This ruling was soon fortified when a separate issue of vaccinations – state laws requiring children to be vaccinated prior to attending public school – came up in *Zucht v. King* in 1922. Justice Louis Brandeis and a unanimous court held that *Jacobson* had already established that a state may exercise its police power to provide for compulsory vaccination.

In India, Justice John Marshall Harlan's sentiments on community interest being prioritised over individual interests were echoed by the Supreme Court in *Asha Ranjan v. State of Bihar* (2017). In that case, the court essentially laid down a hierarchy for a situation when two fundamental rights under the same umbrella are pitched against each other. It observed that the community interest cannot be sacrificed at the altar of individual interests especially in a situation where a fear psychosis is running through the community.

It is puzzling to note here that despite acknowledging the argument on community interest in paragraph 49 of the judgment and addressing the need to limit individual liberty in such cases, the Supreme Court still went on to declare vaccine mandates to be disproportionate until the time infection rates remain low. This will inevitably have a direct bearing on India's ability to equip itself and its citizens for further mutations of the virus, if any, in the times to come.

The arguments in opposition to vaccine mandates could have the potential to be sustained if it had not been proved that vaccines are medically essential to prevent severe illness and reduce deaths among infected persons. Should the virus mutate further, the presence of a class of unvaccinated persons would have wide-ranging ramifications for an already overburdened healthcare system.

Being a signatory to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, India is bound to take all possible measures to progressively realise the enjoyment of "highest attainable standard of physical and mental health" of its citizens under Article 12 thereof. In this regard, it is only befitting that the state expedites inoculations at a time when infection rates are relatively low. This will not only alleviate the burden on the healthcare system during more difficult times, but will also ensure that the state's healthcare policies are proactive and not merely reactionary.

As for bodily integrity and personal autonomy of an individual under Article 21 of the Constitution, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the fact that such autonomy proceeds on the guarantee of life itself. In such a scenario, it becomes essential for the state to first safeguard the life and health of its citizens before individuals' decisional autonomies, even if that requires the state to take aid of its constitutionally recognised police powers.

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Meeting family planning goals

India needs to focus on improving access to family planning services for not just adults, but also the younger population

SUDHIR MAKNIKAR

India's family planning programme has improved access to contraceptives. This has led to a reduction in the Total Fertility Rate from 3.4 in 1990-92 to 2.0 in 2019-21, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). However, there are two themes that need further attention. First, according to NFHS-5 and the 2022 report by the United Nations Population Fund, there is a rise in adolescent childbearing in some States such as Tripura and Meghalaya. Second, COVID-19 has had a severe impact on economic resources and access to education, thereby influencing the choices women and the youth make about their sexual and reproductive health. In order to meet the Sustainable Development Goal of Family Planning by 2030, India now needs to focus on improving access to family planning services for not just the adult population, but also the youth.

Expanding the horizon

In India, frontline health workers have contributed significantly in implementing Mission Parivar Vikas, which aims to accelerate access to high-quality family planning choices, to successfully increase the modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR), especially among female non-users from vulnerable communities. They have achieved this by delivering contraceptives at homes and offering a wider basket of alternatives such as injectable contraceptives. However, there are still many districts in India that have low mCPR, with a large proportion of them being the youth. We need to strengthen the capacity of health workers in using the Family Planning Logistics Management Information System – a dedicated software to ensure the smooth forecasting, procurement and distribution of family planning commodities across all the levels of health facilities – to ensure the availability of and access to contraceptives by marginalised communities.

Family planning interventions need to be tailored around the diversity of contexts, health needs, and populations for whom the intervention is to be implemented. The youth are not a homogenous group. We need to answer key questions pertaining to the sexual reproductive health needs of adolescents with varying profiles such as males and females who are in school, out of school, married, unmarried, and so on.

These are key considerations in planning and designing programmes. There is a need to break down the data by key characteristics in order to reach specific groups of people in order to have the greatest impact. Moreover, when addressing younger populations, holistic health awareness programmes on the right age of marriage, safe sexual behavior, contraception, reproductive health, and diet diversity are paramount. It is only by working holistically on overall health goals and addressing social determinants can we ensure equitable family planning services for both adults and young people.

Prompting male engagement

We have still not involved men as much as we can in the family planning programme. Certain gender transformative approaches have shown promising results in various places. For instance, The Men in Maternity (MiM) study conducted in Delhi demonstrated the effectiveness of teaching young couples about contraceptives and promoting joint decision-making in choosing family planning methods. Several other examples of involving men in the family planning discourse include the PRACHAR project in Bihar, the Yaari Dosti programme in Mumbai, and the GEMS project in Goa.

Many of the programmes in public health have also started leveraging the capabilities of the private sector to improve service delivery. For instance, leveraging India Post and partnering with a third-party logistics partner through the Informed Push Model showcases how the private sector can be effectively engaged to provide family planning products at health facilities and make them available when the community needs them. The private sector can offer innovative solutions in family planning, thereby improving the community's access to services.

India needs to develop an equitable model that meets the needs of the youth and adolescents. In several districts, more than one-fifth of the population in the adolescent age group are now entering the reproductive age group. Thus, building capacity among health workers, addressing intersectionality, engaging men in the discourse of family planning, and drafting innovative solutions through effective public and private partnerships can greatly improve access to family planning services and the overall health of our younger population.

Sudhir Maknikar is Director, Family Health, PATH

STATE OF PLAY

'Deemed forest' no more

The Karnataka government's order is perceived to be a fig leaf to legalise illegal encroachment

R. KRISHNA KUMAR

In a May 5 order, the Karnataka government denotified almost 67% of 'deemed forest' in the State and reduced their area from 9.94 lakh hectares to 3.3 lakh ha. However, this controversial decision is subject to approval by the Supreme Court. The court has to ratify the reclassification of forests, which was done ostensibly to help farmers with small land holdings who had taken up cultivation on parcels of land in deemed forest areas all these years. The government has also justified the move by arguing that the land released from deemed forest areas will be transferred to the Revenue Department for infrastructure development.

While there is no consensus on the precise definition of 'deemed forest', an expert committee constituted by the State in 2002 went by the Supreme Court's order in the *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad* case (1996) and described 'deemed forest' as land with the "characteristic of the forests irrespective of the ownership". The expert committee itself was a fallout of the court's order in the case; it was constituted to settle the issue over the application of provisions under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for different categories of land.

The expert committee said deemed forests are thickly wooded areas with the Revenue Department but not handed over to the Forest Department; thickly wooded areas recommended to be taken over by the government and to be handed over to the Karnataka Forest Department, but not notified; thickly wooded land distributed to grantees but not cultivated; and the C and D class lands handed over to the Forest Department including the plantations raised in the above-mentioned areas.

Based on this, the expert committee included 9.94 lakh ha of land under the deemed forest category, while 33.2 lakh ha were declared as notified forests as per government records.

But in 2014, the State government sought to question the accuracy of the assessment and ordered a review on the grounds that no established or scientific yardstick was used to arrive at the figures. District-level committees were constituted and, based on a reassessment, according to the May 5 notification, 82,089.96 ha have been dropped from the deemed forest category citing "totaling and conversion error"; 27,604.61 ha have been dropped on the grounds that a few notifications issued multiple times had resulted in duplication of count; and 1.35 lakh ha have been removed from the deemed forest category as they were under the 'reserve forest' category. But what is intriguing is that 1.62 lakh ha have been declassified as deemed forests as they contained fewer than 50 trees per ha. While the criteria of "50 trees per hectare" cited by the government has been called arbitrary, questions have also been raised about the efficacy of various afforestation schemes for which crores of rupees have been spent by the Forest Department. Besides, experts have pointed out that areas with scanty tree cover, including grasslands and landscape with shrub vegetation, have their own utility and support biodiversity unique to those regions.

Activists have now sought to know the extent of land under cultivation by farmers and their precise location as it is the farmers' interests that are ostensibly being protected. The government's justification is perceived to be a fig leaf to protect politicians and powerful entities by legalising illegal encroachment. Revenue Minister R. Ashok said that the encroached land will be leased to the encroachers for 30 years for a fixed cost.

The government's move is antithetical to the Indian government's commitment to restore 26 million ha of land by 2030 and comes at a time when Karnataka is being battered by extreme climate events.

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DATA POINT

Decoding the feud over fuel taxes

A war of words has broken out between the Centre and the States regarding the Centre's excise duty cut and its impact on the tax revenue of the States. On May 21, the Centre announced a reduction of ₹8/litre in the excise duty charged on petrol. A day later, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Dr. P. Thiaga Rajan tweeted that Tamil Nadu loses revenue when the Centre cuts tax as the State's taxes are ad-valorem. Ad-valorem basis means that a State's sales tax is based on the sum of the Centre's excise duty, the base price of petrol and the dealer's commission. The same day, Ms. Sitharaman explained in a series of tweets that the "entire burden of these two duty cuts is borne by the Centre" and the basic excise duty which is shareable with the States "has not been touched". **Data show that a drop in the Centre's excise duty, regardless of the component deducted, reduces the States' VAT collections.**

By *Jasmin Nihalani* and *Vignesh Radhakrishnan*

• Change in excise duty

The table lists the components of the Centre's excise duty on petrol before and after the cut announced last Saturday. The reduction of ₹8/litre on petrol announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was deducted entirely from the Road and Infrastructure Cess component which is not shareable with the States. Only the basic excise duty worth ₹1.4/litre is shareable with the States; the additional duty and cesses are not shareable

Component	Before the cut (on May 21)	After the cut (on May 23)	As on Oct. 2018
Basic excise duty	₹1.40/ltr	₹1.40/ltr	₹2.98/ltr
Special additional excise duty	₹11/ltr	₹11/ltr	₹7/ltr
Agriculture infrastructure & development cess	₹2.50/ltr	₹2.50/ltr	No such cess
Road and infrastructure cess	₹13/ltr	₹5/ltr	₹8/ltr
Total	**₹27.9/ltr**	**₹19.9/ltr**	**₹17.98/ltr**

• Impact on State's tax collections

The table lists the petrol price build up in Delhi before and after the central excise duty cut on Saturday. As Delhi's sales tax rate of 19.4% is charged on the sum of the base price, the Centre's excise duty and the dealer's commission, a reduction in excise duty will also bring down Delhi's sales tax charged on a litre of petrol. **In this case, due to the Centre's cut, Delhi's sales tax reduced by ₹0.83/litre of petrol**

Component	Before the cut (on April 1)	After the cut (on May 23)
Base price (including freight)	₹53.54/ltr	₹57.33/ltr
Excise duty	₹27.9/ltr	₹19.9/ltr
Dealer commission	₹3.83/ltr	₹3.78/ltr
Total (base price + excise duty + dealer commission)	**₹85.27/ltr**	**₹81.01/ltr**
VAT at 19.4%	₹16.54/ltr	₹15.71/ltr
Reduction in VAT	-	**₹0.83/ltr**
Retail selling price	₹101.81/ltr	₹96.72/ltr

• VAT across States

The table lists the VAT/sales tax levied by select States. **Similar to Delhi, all the States charge VAT as a % on the sum of the base price, the Centre's excise duty and dealer's commission.** In addition to that, some States also charge an additional amount as a flat rate on every litre of pertrol or as cess. So, while the Centre's excise duty component remains fixed, the States' VAT rate is based on the other three components. And a reduction in excise duty will impact States' revenues to varying degrees based on the % of VAT levied

States	Sales tax/VAT on petrol
Tamil Nadu	13% sales tax + ₹11.52/ltr
Kerala	30.08% sales tax + ₹1/ltr additional sales tax + 1% cess
Maharashtra (Mumbai)	26% VAT + ₹10.12/ltr additional tax
Karnataka	25.92% sales tax
Rajasthan	31.04% VAT + ₹1500/KL road development cess
Gujarat	13.7% VAT+ 4% cess on town rate & VAT
Uttar Pradesh	19.36% or ₹14.85/ltr whichever is higher
Andhra Pradesh	31% VAT + ₹4/ltr VAT + ₹1/ltr road development cess and VAT thereon
Madhya Pradesh	29% VAT + ₹2.5/ltr VAT + 1% cess
West Bengal	25% or ₹13.12/ltr whichever is higher as sales tax+ other components

• Misused funds

Moreover, the Centre is expected to transfer the "unshareable" cess to the designated reserve funds so that it can be utilised for the earmarked purposes. However, in 2020, the CAG observed that the Centre retained 40% of all cess collections in FY19. Not a rupee of the ₹1.2 lakh crore of cess collected on crude oil was transferred to an oil industry development body it was meant to finance (FY10-FY19)

Major cesses levied	Total cess collected (₹ cr.)	Transferred to reserve funds (₹ cr.)	Retained with Centre (₹ cr.)	Retained with the Centre (%)
Overall (FY19)	**2,74,592**	**1,64,332**	**1,10,260**	**40%**
GST compensation (FY19)	95,081	54,275	40,806	43%
Road and Infrastructure (FY19)	1,10,847	1,00,690	10,157	9%
Cess on crude oil (collected between FY10 and FY19)	1,24,399	0	1,24,399	100%

SOURCE: PPAC, CAG, IOCL

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 24, 1972

RBI advances to States raised

New Delhi, May 23: The ceiling on ways and means advances to the States from the Reserve Bank of India had been increased by four times from this month to enable them to meet their temporary difficulties, the Finance Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha to-day. He also told the House that the Centre would hold discussions with Rajasthan, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Assam this month and the next on the financial problems and difficulties faced by them, particularly in the wake of stoppage of overdraft facilities. Mr. M.K. Mohta asked whether even with raising the limit by four times, the economically weaker States like Rajasthan would be able to deal with the budgetary gaps. He wanted to know whether the Government would make a study of the problems of the weaker States. The Finance Minister said the idea of overdrafts was to meet any temporary imbalance in the flow of receipts and expenditure. But later there was an increasing tendency on the part of the State Governments to draw on this facility which became some sort of deficit financing. Mr. Chavan said: This sort of deficit financing to the tune of Rs. 600 crores which has become the States' main source of meeting their budgetary expenditure will completely ruin the economy of the country."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 24, 1922

Ramzan in jails

Simla, May 23: A Communique states: It does not appear to be known generally that Mahomedan prisoners in the Punjab jails enjoy facilities for keeping their fast of Ramzan, provided that their physical condition permits of their doing so. While keeping the fast they are permitted to receive the whole of their daily rations at the evening meal and are allowed to keep the whole or any portion thereof in their wards, cells or other compartments for consumption on the following morning. The dal given with the daily ration is varied. As far as possible prisoners who have been placed in the special class by the convicting Courts received a superior scale of diet. An ample supply of water is kept in gharas in their cells or wards for use at night. Prisoners are not required to do any work between 12 noon and 2 p.m. during the summer months. All prisoners are allowed to perform their devotions during the midday rest and while locked up at night. There is thus no difficulty in the way of saying the tara with prayers at night.

FROM PAGE ONE

India to join Biden's new trade initiative

Details of the framework on the four pillars are still to be fleshed out, and government officials said India will keenly watch the progress in negotiations on the IPEF. One of the IPEF's roles in the Indo-Pacific, said documents and a fact sheet released after the launch, will be to set and follow standards for the digital economy and cross-border data flows and data localisation, areas where India has had some strong differences with the U.S. and allies, especially after it tabled a data protection Bill that makes data localisation mandatory.

The framework also seeks to counter inflation through more resilient supply chains, promoting more commitments from every member country on clean energy and decarbonisation, and commitments on a "fair economy" though effective tax regimes that tackle money laundering and bribery and corruption, the documents said.

"With today's launch, partner countries will begin discussions focusing on strengthening economic cooperation and achieving shared goals," the Ministry of External Affairs' statement said, underlining the fact that the IPEF's contours are still to be formally agreed upon. The IPEF plan follows a U.S. plan for a "Blue Dot Network" to certify infrastructure projects against a set of criteria and standards, that was launched by the U.S., Japan and Australia in 2019.

U.S. to defend Taiwan against China: Biden

Mr. Biden added it was his expectation that such an event would not happen or be attempted.

The White House later said Mr. Biden was not diverging from the official "One China" policy, which includes the commitment to "provide Taiwan with the military means to defend itself".

"Our policy has not changed," the official said.

Mr. Biden's comments were met with defiance in Beijing, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin telling reporters, "Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory".

"The Taiwan issue is a purely internal affair for China," he said. "On issues touching on China's core interests of sovereignty and territorial integrity, China has no room for compromise or concession."

Mr. Biden made a similar comment in October, saying "Yes, we have a commitment to do that" when asked if the U.S. would come to the defence of Taiwan. At that time, a White House spokesperson said Mr. Biden was not announcing any change in United States policy.

Gyanvapi pleas: court to set order of hearing

The Hindu plaintiffs in the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Masjid Idgah dispute filed an application in a Mathura court seeking to perform Hindu "purification" rituals inside the mosque premises, claiming that the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Keshav Dev temple was purportedly located inside the mosque.

"The petitioner, Dinesh Chandra Sharma, wants to revive the sanctity of *sanctum sanctorum* inside the Shahi Masjid Idgah by purifying the divine place with holy water of the Ganga and Yamuna," his lawyer Deepak Sharma said. Mr. Dinesh Sharma is the national treasurer of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha.

In the Gyanvapi case, while the court-appointed commission submitted its report, it is yet to be made public. Despite this, videos alleged to be part of the survey were leaked, which prompted the Hindu plaintiffs to claim the discovery of a *Shivling* even as the Muslim side said the structure in question was part of a fountain.

The issue reached the Supreme Court last week, when the civil judge initially hearing the matter directed that the place where the disputed structure was found, be sealed.

World may have lost 11.2 crore jobs, says ILO

The report added that a "great and growing divergence between richer and poorer economies" continues to characterise the recovery. "While high-income countries experienced a recovery in hours worked, low- and lower-middle-income economies suffered setbacks in the first quarter of the year with a 3.6 and 5.7 per cent gap respectively when compared to the pre-crisis benchmark," the report said.

Commenting on the report, trade unions urged the Centre to address the issue of unemployment. "Women employment in India has come down, particularly in sectors such as healthcare as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ILO report suggests that the purchasing capacity of the workers should be improved. ILO has been proposing decent jobs and decent wages. We do not have decent employment here in India. Most people are on contract without any social security. If there are no decent wages, purchasing power will also come down. The Code on Wages was passed in 2019 but is not yet implemented. The Wage Committee in 1948 asked the government to implement minimum wage, living wage and decent wage. We have not implemented even minimum wage yet under pressure from industrialists," Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) general secretary Binoy Kumar Sinha said.

All India Trade Union Congress general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said the ILO's projections have underestimated the real picture in India.

"According to our calculation, 30%-60% of workers – five crore people – who lost jobs during the lockdown have not joined any work. One-third of MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) can never be revived according to a survey by the associations of MSMEs. Hawkers and vendors are facing problems due to high prices of fruits and vegetables. The Centre had accepted that 50% of the women workforce returned back to cities after the first lockdown. Overall women participation has also gone down. We need more jobs. The governments have to do a lot. They must ensure that there are no retrenchments," Ms. Kaur said.

18 pistols, 30 magazines seized from 2 militant groups in Valley

Two arrested; police suspect that weapons were meant for targeted killings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Eighteen pistols, suspected to be amassed for targeted killings, were recovered from two militant modules in the Kashmir Valley on Monday, the J&K police said.

According to police officials, 15 pistols, 30 magazines, 300 rounds and one silencer were recovered from the Chanapora area here.

"Two local 'hybrid militants' of the Lashkar-e-Taiba's The Resistance Front were arrested (in Srinagar). Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition have been recovered. An investigation is going on. It is a big success for the police," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

The police suspect that the pistols were to be used for targeted killings. Targeted killings have been on the rise in the Valley for the past two years, with members of the minorities, policemen and workers of the BJP among those being targeted. Two members of the minority community were killed this year.

Deadly cache: Arms recovered by the police from the Chanapora area in Srinagar on Monday. •@KASHMIRPOLICE

3 held for murder

The police said they arrested three militants for their role in the targeted killing of a sarpanch, Manzoor Ahmad Bangroo, on April 15 this year in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Three Chinese pistols, three pistol magazines, two grenades and 32 pistol rounds were recovered from the arrested militants.

"Interrogation of the three suspects revealed a deeper conspiracy involving an older sleeper cell of the LeT, which was also responsible for a grenade attack on the Palhalan highway (in north Kashmir) last year.

This particular module had been tasked with identifying and attacking elected representatives and other civilians and soft targets for which pistols and ammunition had been provided to three hybrid terrorists," the police said. They were identified as Noor Mohammad Yatoo, Mohd Rafiq Parray and Ashiq Hussain Parray, residents of Goshbugh, Pattan and Baramulla, respectively.

"The three terrorists divulged the plot, which was directed by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists Yusuf Kantru and Hilal Sheikh (both killed in the Malwah operation in April 2022) and executed by recently infiltrated terrorists Gulzar Ganaie (killed in an encounter at Bandipora in Kashmir division) and Umar Lone of Wussan, who is still active and at large," the police said.

"The successful apprehension of the three terrorists and the recovery of the arms and ammunition has solved another sensational case in Baramulla and foiled major terror plots planned in future," the police said.

Lawyer seeks to be party in Gyanvapi case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who has challenged the Places of Worship Act of 1991, has moved the Supreme Court seeking to be made a party in the Gyanvapi case while arguing that a temple's "religious character" does not change merely because it was demolished once upon a time.

Demolition of a temple's roof, walls, pillars, foundation and even subsequent offerings of *Namaz* does not change the character of a land where once a temple stood, Mr. Upadhyay argued.

"After the *Pran Pratishtha* of idol, 'A Temple is Always a Temple' until the idol is shifted to another temple with the rituals of *Visarjan*," Mr. Upadhyay argued in his application.

He said a mosque constructed on temple land cannot be a mosque, not only for the reason that such construction is against Islamic law, but also on grounds that the property once vested in the deity continues to be deity's property and right of deity and devotees are never lost, howsoever long illegal encroachment continues on such property.

The right to restore religious property is "unfettered", he argued referring to the restraints under the 1991 Act. He said there is a "continuing wrong" and the injury must be "cured" by judicial remedy.

He argued that the religious character of a mosque and a temple are "totally different.

"Mosque is simply a place of prayer and that is why, in the Gulf countries (birthplace of Islam), it is demolished/shifted even for making road, school, hospital and public office... The 1991 Act cannot be applied on mosque," the application argued.

The 1991 Act, he claimed, was enacted in the garb of 'public order', which is a State subject [Schedule-7, List-II, Entry-1] and 'places of pilgrimages within India' is also State subject [Schedule-7, List-II, Entry-7]. The Centre could not have enacted the 1991 Act.

2 F-18 Super Hornet jets land in Goa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Two Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornets fighter jets landed in Goa on Monday for trials on the Indian Navy's Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) to demonstrate their compatibility and suitability to operate from Indian aircraft carriers. The demonstration is expected to continue up to the first week of June, according to informed sources.

India's first indigenous aircraft carrier *Vikrant*, which is in advanced stages of sea trials, is scheduled to be commissioned in August. These are part of demonstrations by the manufacturers to showcase the compatibility of their aircraft to fly from Indian Navy's aircraft carriers, officials stated.

Both the Rafale-M and F/A-18 are originally designed to operate from carriers with a catapult launch mechanism.

Capital storm

Surprise hit: Heavy rain and wind wreaked havoc in Delhi on Monday, though bringing respite from the heat. Trees were uprooted in many localities and traffic was thrown out of gear. Offices asked staff to work from home. •SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Webinar on Mechanical engineering on May 28

Jointly presented by Dayananda Sagar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A Webinar on 'Mechanical Engineering in Digital Era' jointly presented by Dayananda Sagar and *The Hindu* Education Plus will be held as a part of the Career Counselling series on May 28 at 11.30 a.m.

M.R. Haseebuddin, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering; Anand Badiger, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering and Dinakaran, Head, Department of Mechatronics, Hindustan Institute of Tech and Science will speak as a part of the webinar. Their discussion will be moderated by Anukripa Elango, Educator.

To register for the webinar, visit : https://bit.ly/3Nw8Rpq or scan the QR Code given.

Traders with advance log-in facility at NSE under CBI lens

Agency seizes vast amount of data during recent searches

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Several trading members who had co-location and "advance" log-in facility to access the National Stock Exchange (NSE) data feed have come under the scanner of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which had conducted searches at more than 10 locations last week.

It is learnt that during the searches, the agency has seized voluminous data pertaining to the transactions during the check period. It had earlier collected the related documents from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which has been dealing with the co-location cases.

In May 2018, the agency registered a case alleging that Delhi-based broker firm OPG Securities, owned by Sanjay Gupta, and some others used an algorithmic software during 2010-14. The accused also took advantage of the then co-location facility to gain faster data access through the exchange's secondary server.

The software had been developed by accused Ajay Narottam Shah based on the exchange's trade data collected in 2005-06 for some research work. The data was shared with Infotech Financial Services Private Limited and Mr. Shah despite the fact that the company used to supply algorithmic trading software to the brokers in the NSE.

Last month, the CBI filed a chargesheet against the former NSE managing director, Chitra Ramkrishna, and its former group operating officer, Anand Subramanian. While Mr. Subramanian was arrested in February, the agency subsequently arrested Ms. Ramkrishna after several rounds of questioning. The Income-Tax Department also searched their premises in Chennai and Mumbai.

Govt. eases pension rules for relatives of missing employees

Family will immediately get benefits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government has eased pension rules for the families of missing Central government employees. The family members would immediately get the pension benefits after a government employee has gone missing and not wait to get declared dead in government records or complete the seven-year-period.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) has notified the new pension rules. A senior government official said that the decision has been taken amid reluctance by Central government officials to go on deputation to Jammu and Kashmir, which became a Union Territory in 2019.

A statement issued by the DOPT on Monday said, "In a major relief, particularly for government employees serving in militancy-affected areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Northeast as well as Naxal-prone pockets", Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh has announced that the government has relaxed family pension rules for missing Central government employees.

The move is aimed as an outreach initiative to Kashmiri Pandits employed under the Prime Minister's employment package in J&K.

The community has been protesting for their safety since Rahul Bhat, a revenue official employed under the PM package in 2010 was killed by terrorists in a targeted attack while he was at work on May 12 in Budgam's Chadoora.

The official said that since J&K is a UT now, the Lieutenant-Governor will have to notify the pension rules implemented by the Centre. A statement said that according to the earlier rule, the next of the kin of an employee would not receive the family pension, if he went missing and it would not be paid till the missing employee was declared dead in accordance with the law or till seven years had passed.

"As per new the Official Memorandum, in all cases where a Government servant covered by NPS [National Pension Scheme] goes missing during service, the benefits of family pension will be immediately paid to the family of the missing government servant and in case he reappears and resumes service, the amount paid as family pension during the intervening time of his missing period can be accordingly deducted from his salary," the statement added.

The changes will also apply to those covered under the Old Pension rules.The Minister said that this is going to provide huge relief particularly in those regions where instances of government employees going missing are reported more frequently. The Minister said that "cases of abduction of the Central government employees working in violence-prone areas have come to the fore and therefore to instill confidence and to protect them and their family interests, the changes in the pension rules were brought about."

IN BRIEF

J&K L-G meets protesting Pandits

SRINAGAR

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday evening visited the protesting Pandits for the first time since a Pandit employee was killed on May 12 at the Sheikhpora transit camp in Budgam. He pledged to go after militants and their ecosystem in Kashmir. "Those who kill people with guns are not our only targets, but all those who are running this ecosystem. We will not stay calm until this ecosystem is put to an end," Mr. Sinha said.

Sheikh Abdullah's image removed from medals

SRINAGAR

The J&K administration on Monday decided to replace the embossed image of the first PM of erstwhile State from the police medals with the national emblem. "It is hereby ordered that Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah embossed on one side of the medal shall be replaced with 'The National Emblem of Government of India' and the other side inscribed with the J&K State Emblem shall be inscribed as 'J&K Police Medal for Gallantry' and 'J&K Police Medal for Meritorious Service'," says an order from Principal Secretary, Home Department, R.K. Goyal.

Make Jangalmahal a State: Bengal BJP MP

KOLKATA

A day after MP Arjun Singh broke ties with the BJP and returned to the Trinamool Congress, another party MP Saumitra Khan on Monday embarrassed the party by seeking statehood for West Bengal's Jangalmahal region. The forested patch of Purulia, Bankura, Paschim Medinipur and Jhargram, located in the southwestern part of the State, is referred to as the Jangalmahal region. The Bishnupur MP has raked up the issue when the BJP is grappling with defections and electoral setbacks.

Eight ex-MLAs join Congress in Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

As many as eight former legislators joined the Congress party in Haryana on May 23, ahead of the municipal body elections in the State slated for June 19.

These leaders joined the party in the presence of the leader of Opposition in the Haryana Assembly Bhupinder Singh Hooda and the newly appointed Haryana Congress President Chaudhary Udaybhan.

Several senior leaders, including Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda,were present on the occasion. The former MLAs who joined the Congress are Sharda Rathore, Ram Niwas Ghodela, Naresh Selwal, Parminder Singh Dhul, Jile Ram Sharma, Rakesh Kamboj, Rajkumar Valmiki and Subhash Chaudhary.

PM meets Japanese industry leaders

Uniqlo invited to join India's journey in becoming a tech-enabled manufacturing hub for textiles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday met with a number of top representatives of the Japanese corporate sector.

Kick-starting his outreach to the Japanese government and society, Mr. Modi said Japan and India are natural partners and that India is a chosen destination of Japanese people for spheres as diverse as faith and adventure sports.

On the sidelines of Mr. Modi's ongoing visit to Tokyo, the Government of India and the Government of the United States signed an Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA).

Deepening ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with top executives and CEOs of Japanese companies in Tokyo. He is in Japan on a two-day visit to attend a summit of Quad leaders. •PTI

Admirable strides

"I have had the opportunity of regularly interacting with the Japanese people since my days as Gujarat CM. Japan's developmental strides have always been admirable. Japan is partnering India in key sectors including infrastructure, technology, innovation, start-ups and more," Mr. Modi said in a message following meetings with leading Japanese industrial figures. The Prime Minister met Nobuhiro Endo, chairman of NEC Corporation; retail giant Uniqlo's Tadashi Yanai; and Masayoshi Son, founder of Softbank. Discussions between the Indian leader and the Japanese business leaders covered investment plans, technology transfer, and start-ups. Mr. Modi also met with Osamu Suzuki of Suzuki Motors.

"The Prime Minister invited Uniqlo's enhanced participation in India's journey to becoming a manufacturing hub for textiles, particularly the use of technologies in textile manufacturing. The Prime Minister also invited Uniqlo to take part in the PM-MITRA scheme aimed at further strengthening the textiles sector," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Interaction with Indians

Mr. Modi interacted with Indian community members in Tokyo and spoke of early Indian travellers to Japan such as Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore.

"Prime Minister underlined the deep cultural ties that exist between India and Japan," an official press release said. The IIA between India and the U.S. was signed by Vinay Kwatra, Foreign Secretary, and Scott Nathan, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

The agreement is a legal requirement for the DFC to continue providing investment support in India in critical areas like COVID-19 measures and healthcare financing.

Row over Akal Takht chief priest's call

He asks Sikhs to keep modern arms

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

> **We are living in a civilised society ... Weapons don't have any place in a congenial and harmonious society**
> BHAGWANT SINGH MANN
> Punjab Chief Minister

Giani Harpreet Singh, chief priest of the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, on Monday said that every Sikh should make efforts to keep "a modern weapon because circumstances are such", stoking controversy and inviting sharp criticism from political parties.

In a video message on Guruship Day of Guru Hargobind Sahib, the sixth Sikh Guru, the chief priest said, "...Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib preached that every Sikh should become strong by reading *Gurbani* and at the same time, should also be armed and learn the art of horse riding and using weapons. His preaching is still relevant today. It's necessary even today, especially for the Sikh boys and girls to follow the orders of Guru Hargobind Singh and learn the art of using weapons, be it *gatkabaji* [a style of fighting with wooden sticks], *talwarbazi* [fencing], shooting. Besides, every Sikh should make an effort to keep a licensed 'modern weapon' legally-...because the time and circumstances are such..."

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Mr. Singh should spread a message of peace, harmony and brotherhood in society rather than asking Sikhs to keep weapons.

"We are living in a civilised society where the country is governed through the rule of law. Weapons don't have any place in a congenial and harmonious society," Mr. Mann said.

The Chief Minister said it was the need of the hour to ensure that the hard-earned peace of the State was maintained at every cost. "Already forces inimical to peace and harmony are trying to disturb peace, adding to that weapons in every household can further pose serious challenges to the State's peaceful atmosphere," he said.

'List reasons'

Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring asked Giani Harpreet Singh to tell the reasons for the Sikhs to possess licensed modern weapons, and termed it a "matter of serious concern".

The PCC president said since the Jathedar Sahab held an important and sensitive position in the Sikh community, whatever he said was always taken seriously by the Sikh community.

BJP State president Ashwani Sharma said the statement by Giani Harpreet Singh could send a wrong message to the people.

Centre reconstitutes Inter-State Council

Amit Shah to be chief of committee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Inter-State Council, which works to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Chairman and Chief Ministers of all States and six Union Ministers as members.

Amit Shah

Ten Union Ministers will be the permanent invitees to the Inter-State Council, according to an official notification.

The government has also reconstituted the standing committee of the Inter-State Council with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as Chairman. The Union Ministers who were made members of the council are: Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, Hardeep Singh Puri, Nitin Gadkari, S. Jaishankar, Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal, Dhamendra Pradhan, Pralhad Joshi, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Bhupender Yadav.

The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh are also members of the standing committee of the Inter-State Council.

It will have continuous consultations and process matters for consideration of the council, process all matters pertaining to centre-state relations before they are taken up in the council.

Nitish renews call for caste census

Anxious BJP watches from sidelines, as the CM attempts to chart a fresh course

SOBHANA K. NAIR
AMARNATH TEWARY
NEW DELHI/PATNA

Nitish Kumar

In yet another move that puts the BJP in Bihar on the defensive, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday said that his government would start work on a caste-based census in the State and as a first step, called for an all-party meeting on May 27.

Last October, in a submission to the Supreme Court, the Narendra Modi government at the Centre ruled out the possibility of holding a nation-wide caste census.

"We will call an all-party meeting to know their views on caste-based census and have spoken to some parties to conduct the meeting on May 27, but are still waiting for some of them to respond. The proposal of an all-party meeting will go to the State Cabinet and then we will start work on conducting a caste-based census," Mr. Kumar said in Patna.

When Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad, who was accompanying Mr. Kumar, was asked whether the BJP supported the idea, Mr. Prasad gave a non-committal reply. "We [BJP] will discuss it and consider various aspects (of it)," Mr. Prasad said.

A senior BJP leader said the government's submission in the Supreme Court does not prohibit the State governments from carrying out the exercise. And in Bihar, he said, the party has very little room for manoeuvre if it does not go along with Mr. Kumar's decision. It will stand isolated and will be branded as an anti-backward party in the State, which could be electorally fatal.

Mr. Kumar has been trying to claw his way back to the top since the November 2020 setback in the Bihar Assembly poll when the JD(U) with 43 seats was reduced to a junior partner to the BJP, which got 73 seats. The BJP, which is banking on a unified Hindu vote, continues to be uneasy with Mr. Kumar's reassertion on caste census, which could fragment its vote bank.

Delayed reaction

Mr. Kumar is also now seen as taking it out on Union Steel Minister R.C.P. Singh for his proximity to the BJP. Party insiders claim that Mr. Singh, without nod from the Bihar Chief Minister, had agreed to settle for one Cabinet berth in July 2021 instead of four that the party had demanded after the 2019 Lok Sabha election. At that time, Mr. Kumar did not speak about it and in the delayed reaction, he is now withholding the announcement of a JD(U) candidate for the Rajya Sabha election due in June. If Mr. Singh fails to return to the Upper House, he will have to resign from the Cabinet, which would mark the JD(U)'s formal exit from government at the Centre.

Both the decisions are interconnected in Mr. Kumar's bid to chart a fresh course for himself possibly away from the BJP-led NDA.

Sources in the JD(U) said that the entire top leadership of the party has been instructed to remain in Patna for the next three days. "There could be some major political decision taken by top party leadership or some political upheaval in the next 72 hours in the State. We're just keeping our fingers crossed," a JD(U) MLA said requesting anonymity.

Efforts by Mr. Kumar over the past few weeks to bridge the distance between himself and the RJD have also given the BJP anxious moments.

Gujarat BJP to launch membership drive soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Ahead of the State Assembly polls slated to be held later this year, Gujarat BJP will launch a special drive to reach out to voters in all 51,000 booths across the 182 Assembly seats.

In a State executive committee meeting, the top brass of the party has decided to run a drive from June 11 to 13 during which the party workers would reach out to the electorate about various development works and welfare schemes.

Also, a membership and fund collection drive would also be launched from June 1 to enrol new members and collect funds to fight the Assembly elections.

Sarat Pattanayak named Odisha Congress chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress leadership is holding meetings to appoint a new State unit chief in Uttar Pradesh even as it announced a new chief for Odisha on Monday.

Accepting the resignation of the incumbent Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief, a statement from party general secretary K.C. Venugopal read: "Congress president has appointed Sarat Pattanayak as the president of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee with immediate effect."

Mr. Pattanayak's appointment comes as part of the revamp plans for the State unit ahead of the June 2024 Assembly election.

Sense of urgency

With a deadline of June 1 for every State unit to hold two-day *shivir* (camps) to prepare a follow-up action plan of the Udaipur conclave, there is a sense of urgency to complete the process in States where such appointments are pending.

The Hindi heartland States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are among the States awaiting a revamp.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra met with senior leaders to take feedback on who could be the party's new chief in U.P. after its disastrous performance in the recently concluded Assembly elections. Senior leaders Rajesh Mishra, Rashid Ali and Pramod Tiwari are said to be among the leaders who met Ms. Vadra. Soon after losing the Assembly elections in U.P., Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa, party chief had asked all the PCC chiefs to put in their papers.

Defamation suit against Sanjay Raut

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Medha Somaiya, BJP's leader Kirit Somaiya's wife, has filed a ₹100 crore defamation suit in the Bombay High Court against Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut.

Mr. Raut had alleged in Sena's mouthpiece *Saamna* that the couple is involved in a scam by misusing funds collected through Ms. Somaiya's NGO to build toilets in Mira Bhayandar area.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS,TIRUPATI
VIGILANCE & SECURITY DEPARTMENT: TIRUPATI
e-Tender Notice
Roc. No.TTD-72021(31)/37/2020-CVSO-TTD
e-Tenders are invited for Management Services for Collection, Transportation and Handing Over of Pilgrims Baggages/ Cell Phones / Shoes / Other electronic items in Free Luggage Counters / Cell Phone Counters / Shoe Keeping Counters at Tirumala, Alipiri, Srivari Mettu etc., REVERSE TENDERING PROCESS.
Date of Opening Tender: 1) Bid Document Download Start Date & Time: 21.05.2022 @ 05.00 PM **2)** Bid Submission closing Date & Time : 13.06.2022 @ 05.00PM **3)** Pre-Bid meeting : 26.05.2022@ 11.00 am
Tender documents can be downloaded from the website:
https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For Further Details contact Phone Numbers **0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax : 2264554 and mail id : cc2acvsottd@gmail.com**
Roc. No.PR4/13942/Adv.No.67/PRO/2022,Dt:23.05.2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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e-mail : calmint@spmcil.com | CIN : U22213DL2006GOI144763
Sealed tenders from eligible and qualified bidders are invited by the undersigned for procurement of below mentioned items:
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

Item	Tender No.
Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 4-hi 8 inch Cold Rolling Mill	54/PT-03(22-23)/6000017419
Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2-hi 14 inch Cold Rolling Mill	54/PT-02(22-23)/6000017418
Procurement of Hydraulic Stamping Press (70 Ton) (Express)	54/PT-12(22-23)/6000017461

For all other details including last date for submission of tender, please visit our website http://igmkolkata.spmcil.com. **Any amendment or extension shall be notified on Website only.** Sd-
The Chief General Manager

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, जोधपुर
Tel: 0291-2650730, Email: ace2jodhpur@gmail.com
क्रमांक: क्षेत्र-II/ जोधपुर/निविदा/ /2022-23/1117-44 दिनांक: 05.05.2022
बिड आमंत्रण सूचना (NIB) संख्या 11 से 12/2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु लोक निर्माण और वित्तीय नियम के पार्ट-4 नियम 334 (ए) (iii) के तहत रू. 150.00 लाख तक की निविदाओं हेतु केवल जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग में पंजीकृत एवं इससे अधिक लागत की निविदाओं हेतु जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं हेतु नियमानुसार छूट के साथ एवं केन्द्र/ राज्य सरकार के अधिकृत विभागों/ संगठनों, केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग, रेल, डाक, दूरसंचार विभागों में उपयुक्त समकक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से पूर्ण धरोहर राशि के साथ ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा निम्न ऑनलाइन बिड आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

बिड संख्या	UBIN No.	अनुमानित लागत (लाखों में)	धरोहर राशि 2 प्रतिशत	बिड शुल्क (रूपये)	ई-प्रक्रिया शुल्क	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
11/2022-23	PHE2223WSOB01845	179.42	358840/-	2500/-	1000/-	36 माह
12/2022-23	PHE2223WSOB01846	242.03	484060/-	5000/-	1000/-	36 माह

ऑनलाईन बिड उपलब्ध होने की तिथि	09.05.2022
ऑनलाईन बिड डाउनलोड/ अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि	30.05.2022 को 6.00 पी.एम.
ऑनलाईन बिड खोलने की तिथि	31.05.2022 को 2.00 पी.एम.

बिड से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट www.dipronline.org, sppp.raj.nic.in में www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
(विजेन्द्र सिंह राठौड़)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिक विभाग, क्षेत्र द्वितीय जोधपुर
DIPR/C/7062/2022

CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(A Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Power)
Post Box No.8066, Prof. Sir. C.V.Raman Road
Sadashivanagar Post Office, Bangalore - 560 080.
ADVERTISEMENT No. CPRI/06/2022
CPRI invites application for filling up of following anticipated vacancy on **Short term contract / Absorption / Direct Recruitment** basis :

Name of the Post	No. of post falling vacant on 30.06.2022	Level & Pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix
Chief Administrative Officer (Ordinary Grade)	1	Level – 12 (Rs. 78,800 - Rs. 2,09,200)

Essential Educational qualification for Short term contract / Absorption /Direct Recruitment: A University Degree in BA / BSc / B Com / BBA / BBM with professional qualification of SAS / AAO / JAO / Bachelor of Laws / LLB / ACS.
Desirable: MBA(HRM) / Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Human Resources Management - two year's course)
Experience for Short term contract:
(a) Holding analogous post in the parent cadre or Department.
OR
(b) With five years' service in Level-11 of pay matrix in the parent cadre or Department.
Overall 12 years' experience in the Management / Administration of Central Government / Central Autonomous Organizations / Statutory Bodies and should have knowledge of Central Government Rules & Regulations, etc. with good oral and written communication skills.
Experience for Absorption /Direct Recruitment:
Holding analogous post on regular basis.
(OR)
Minimum 5 years' experience in Level-11 with cumulative experience of 12 years in Level -10 and Level-11 of Pay Matrix. The area of experience shall be in the Management / Administration of Central Government / Central Autonomous Organizations / Statutory Bodies and should have knowledge of Central Government Rules & Regulations, etc. with good oral and written communication skills.
The place of posting is at Bangalore.
Applications of the eligible and willing candidates may be forwarded through proper channel as per the format available in CPRI website **https://cpri.res.in/** latest by **20.06.2022**. The candidates may refer CPRI website **https://cpri.res.in/** at Career page for further details regarding general conditions and eligibility criteria etc.
Chief Administrative Officer

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 16-05-2022 **to** 22-05-2022
Directorate of Homoeopathy
Tender ID: 2022_DH_490817_1 * MANAGING DIRECTOR * TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF LACTOSE IP/BP/USP HMS HOLLAND * Closing Date: 07-Jun-2022 * PAC: Rs22410000
Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.
Ro.No:16-22/May/2022/PRD/(N)16

MISSING
Vishnu priya, age 17/22 D/o **Ganesan** Narikkottuveedu Kannoor, Kunnathara P.O, missing from her house on 29.04.2022 at 10:30 am. It is suspected that she is along with **Sanal** from thikkodi. Identification marks, height 160.cm, fair. Any information please inform the bellow phone numbers.

Atholi Police Station - 0496 2672233
Inspector of Police - 9497947240
Inspector of Police
Atholi PS
(01120/F2/2022/I&PRD)

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS,TIRUPATI
NOTIFICATION No.5/2022
Roc. No.99021(31)/6/2022-Rects sec, Dated: 23.05.2022
Name of the Post **Medical Officers (Ayurveda)** in S.V. Ayurvedic Hospital, TTD, No. of Posts **eight (08)**

No. of Vacancies	Roster Point	Category
08	1/I	OC (W)
	2/I	SC (W)
	4/I	BC-A(W)
	6/I	VH (W)
	7/I	SC
	8/I	ST(W)
	10/I	BC-B(W)
	12/I	OC(W)
	Total	08(Eight)

Last date for receipt of Applications : 07.06.2022 PERSONS PROFESSING HINDU RELIGION SHALL ONLY Eligible. For Further details such as age, Scale of Pay, Qualifications, other terms & Conditions Please visit TTD Website : **www.tirumala.org**
Roc. No.PR4/13942/Adv.No.68/PRO/2022,Dt:23.05.2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Fax : +91-0476-2680101, 2686721.
E-mail : contact@kmml.com, URL:www.kmml.com
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender Id	Items
1.	2022_KMML_491261_1	For fabrication & supply of Treatment Reactor D213
2.	2022_KMML_490842_1	Global Tender for supply of 4000 MT of Synthetic Rutile
3.	2022_KMML_491295_1	For fabrication & supply of Recycle Gas Cooler

Chavara 23.05.2022 Sd/ -DGM(Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

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NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in** /respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in**"

Minister brings up WHO death estimates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said at the World Health Assembly in Geneva at the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday that India was "dismayed and concerned" over the WHO's recent exercise on all-cause excess mortality. India's main grouse was the WHO ignored the data that was officially collated by the Centre.

On May 5, the WHO said that there were likely 4.7 million deaths, directly or indirectly attributable to COVID-19 in India in 2020 and 2021. These are the highest, by far, for any country.

In his address, Mr. Mandaviya said that Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, a representative body of Health Ministers from all States, had passed a unanimous resolution asking him to convey their "collective disappointment and concern" with WHO's approach in this regard.

While India has officially contested the WHO's excess deaths estimates, this is the first time that it has raised this matter at an international podium.

ASHA workers earn WHO's global plaudits

They demand minimum wages from the Centre

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The country's frontline health workers or ASHAs (accredited social health activists) were one of the six recipients of the WHO's Global Health Leaders Award 2022 that recognises leadership, contribution to the advance of global health and commitment to regional health issues.

India's 10-lakh strong health workers were given the honour for their "crucial role in linking the community with the health system, to ensure that those living in rural poverty can access primary health care services, as shown throughout the COVID-19 pandemic," the WHO's press statement said.

An official of the Indian mission in Geneva collected the award.

During the pandemic, the workers were tasked with spreading awareness of COVID-19 and safety protocols, identifying and tracking COVID-19 positive cases as well as carrying out vaccination drive often without any personal safety gear. These activities were over and above providing maternal care, immunisation for children and community healthcare.

COVID warriors: ASHA workers help in identifying and tracking COVID-19 patients. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Those honoured include eight volunteer polio workers who were shot dead by armed gunmen in Afghanistan in February 2022, as well as Ludmila Sofia Oliveira Varela, a youth sports advocate from Cabo Verde.

Reacting to the award for ASHAs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Their dedication and determination is admirable."

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said he was "proud" of them.

The All India Co-ordination Committee of ASHA workers and facilitators affiliated with Centre of Indian Trade Unions responded to the PM's message and said, "Scores of ASHA workers sacrificed their lives succumbing to COVID-19 and the Government of India doesn't even have statistics on them. Their families are yet to receive ₹50 lakh as compensation for death due to COVID-19 for frontline workers."

They demanded payment of minimum wages, social security benefits and pension. They get a monthly honorarium of ₹2,000 a month from the Centre. During COVID-19, the Centre offered an additional ₹1,000.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi echoed these demands, saying a visionary initiative of the UPA government introduced ASHAs under the National Rural Health Mission in 2005.

Mamata rules out tax cut on fuel

West Bengal CM says that with excise duty cut, State losing money on fuel sales

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday ruled out any reduction in State taxes on fuel as a follow-up to the Union government's decision to reduce excise duty on petrol by ₹8 a litre and diesel by ₹6 from Sunday.

The Chief Minister explained that owing to the Centre's excise duty cut, the State would incur a loss of ₹1.80 on a litre of petrol and ₹1.03 on a litre of diesel.

Ms. Banerjee said that in February 2021, the State government had reduced the price of petrol and diesel by ₹1 a litre and because of the cumulative effect, the State was losing ₹2.80 a litre on petrol and ₹2.03 on diesel. According to the Chief Minister, the State exchequer is expected to lose ₹1,141 crore a year because of these reductions.

The Chief Minister also compared the West Bengal's "loss" to the rate cuts by Maharashtra, Kerala and Rajasthan. About a month ago, Ms. Banerjee had claimed that the Centre owed the West Bengal government ₹97,000 crore.

She alleged that the Centre was depriving the non-BJP-ruled States of funds.

Early move: The West Bengal government reduced the price of petrol and diesel by ₹1 a litre in February 2021. • PTI

"We are not getting the funds the Centre owes us. The Opposition-ruled States are being deprived... We are being maligned politically. *Tughlaqi* (totalitarian) rule is going on," she said, referring to the BJP government at Centre.

Autonomy to agencies

The Chief Minister alleged that Union government was using Central agencies to interfere in the affairs of the States and bulldozing the federal structure of the country.

Speaking to presspersons at the State Secretariat, Ms. Banerjee alleged that the BJP's rule at the Centre was "worse than that of Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin or Benito Mussolini".

Claiming that the Union government was giving directions to investigation agencies, she demanded autonomy for them.

"Central agencies should work with autonomy without any political interference and only get salary from the Centre and nothing else," she added.

Ms. Banerjee raised the issue of the recent raids by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at the residence of Rashtriya Janata Dal president and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad.

"They [the government at the Centre] are trying to forcibly evict all the political leaders. The raids at Lalu Prasad's residence occurred because elections are approaching in Bihar. It is to weaken the Opposition," she said.

MVA fooling people over fuel price: BJP

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

A day after Maharashtra government announced the slashing of value added tax (VAT) on fuel after the Center's excise duty cut, the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday said that the State was misleading the people and taking credit for the natural consequence and effects of the Centre's decision.

"This is not any kind of relief by MVA government as announced from the official Twitter handle but a natural reduction, based on the reduction in Central government taxes. There is no additional relief on petrol and diesel prices by government of Maharashtra, but a natural consequence and effect of the Centre's decision," said Leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnavis.

Mr. Fadnavis said that the BJP demands that the MVA should immediately take a decision on reducing fuel prices and give relief to citizens, without fooling the people any more.

CPWD to allow quota for disabled

4% junior engineers posts reserved

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has recently started the process to identify 4% of posts of junior engineer (civil and electrical) to be reserved for persons with disabilities (PwD) as mandated by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

The Central construction agency on May 20 wrote to its regional offices to identify 4% of the posts and places where persons with benchmark disabilities, who are those with more than 40% of a specified disability, can be posted. The CPWD asked the regional centres to also make "appropriate reasonable accommodation" for PwD, as the RPwD Act says.

The Act, which came into effect on April 19, 2017, provided for reservation in jobs and promotions as well as the setting up of an expert committee to identify the posts for PwD.

Acting on that, the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry's Department of Empowerment of PwD (DEPwD) had on January 4, 2021 notified a list of posts in government Ministries and departments that are applicable for different benchmark disabilities.

According to the CPWD's May 20 office memorandum, the expert committee held a meeting on April 29 to consider the proposal to exempt various posts in different Ministries and departments, including the CPWD, from the reservation requirement.

"After due consideration, the Committee was of the view that the PwD need to have requisite technical qualification i.e. diploma/degree in engineering or the post in the first place and subsequently he or she has to compete in the selection process for being considered for the post," the CPWD memo stated.

The committee did not agree with the CPWD's proposal for exemption and advised it to follow the DEPWD's notification for recruitment to the posts of technical officer –that is JE (civil and electrical), the memo said.

The regional centres – Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chandigarh – were asked to compile their lists of posts by June 15.

Vinai Kumar is Delhi L-G

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Vinai Kumar Saxena will be the new Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of Delhi as President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the resignation of Anil Baijal, a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said on Monday.

Mr. Baijal resigned last week, citing personal reasons.

Mr. Saxena, who headed the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, has worked in several capacities, including setting up an NGO in Gujarat that opposed Medha Patkar's Narmada Bachao Andolan.

Extending a warm welcome to Mr. Saxena, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "For the betterment of Delhi, he will get full cooperation from the Delhi Cabinet." Mr. Kejriwal also praised the outgoing L-G.

A new billionaire every 30 hours during the pandemic

A million people could face extreme poverty in 2022: Oxfam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The COVID-19 pandemic created a new billionaire every 30 hours, and it is expected that a million people could be pushed into extreme poverty at the same rate in 2022, according to a new Oxfam brief released on Monday.

The brief titled "Profiting from Pain" is published for the World Economic Forum 2022 for its annual meeting for a five-day event at Davos.

The brief shows that 573 people became new billionaires during the pandemic, at the rate of one every 30 hours. Oxfam expects that 263 million more people will crash into extreme poverty this year, at a rate of a million people every 33 hours.

The wealth of billionaires in the world has also risen more in the first 24 months of COVID-19 than in 23 years combined. The total wealth of the world's billionaires is now equivalent to 13.9% of the global GDP. This is a three-fold increase from 4.4% in 2000.

"Billionaires' fortunes have not increased because they are now smarter or working harder. Workers are working harder, for less pay and in worse conditions. The super-rich have rigged the system with impunity for decades and they are now reaping the benefits. They have seized a shocking amount of the world's wealth as a result of privatisation and monopolies, gutting regulation and workers' rights while stashing their cash in tax havens –all with the complicity of governments," said Gabriela Bucher, executive director of Oxfam International.

The wealth of billionaires in the world has risen more in the first 24 months of COVID-19 than in 23 years combined. • AFP

The pandemic has created 40 new pharma billionaires. Pharmaceutical corporations like Moderna and Pfizer are making $1,000 profit every second just from their monopoly control of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Gender inequalities have also deepened as women were disproportionately pushed out of employment. In 2021, there were 13 million fewer women in employment compared with 2019, while men's employment recovered to 2019 levels. The gender pay gap too is forecast to take 136 years to close up from 100 years before the pandemic.

Oxfam recommends several tax measures to stop deepening income disparities, including a one-off solidarity taxes on billionaires' pandemic windfalls and permanent wealth taxes.

It's a race to harass Muslims: Mehbooba

'BJP doing what British did before'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said it seemed there was a race among the Chief Ministers in the country on who could harass the Muslims more.

"A competition is on for which model – whether the Gujarat-like model, U.P. model, Assam model, M.P. model – needs to be implemented in the country. Chief Ministers are competing with each other on who can harass Muslims more. The Assam CM has gone a step further [in the politics of polarisation]," Ms. Mufti said at a press conference in Srinagar.

'Why is PM silent?'

The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said the Muslims were being provoked to react. "The issues of temples and mosques are being raised so that these people get a chance to execute another episode like that in Gujarat or U.P., and start a bloodshed. The British pitted Hindus against Muslims, unfortunately the BJP is doing the same now," Ms. Mufti said.

Mehbooba Mufti

She questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Prime Minister is watching silently. His party thinks it means what it is doing is right," she added.

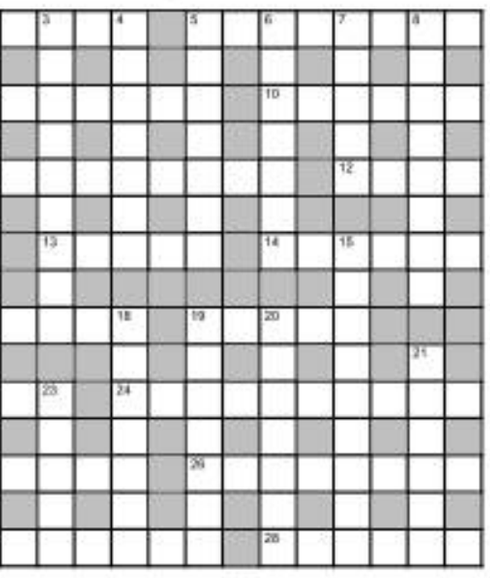
Meanwhile, Ms. Mufti accused the Lieutenant-Governor's administration of disengaging local employees from the government services. "The real designs behind the revocation of (provisions) of Article 370 are now coming to the fore. They are disengaging employees to ensure outsiders apply for these jobs. Many of these employees have been working with the government departments for decades now. They were due to get regularised in July this year," Ms. Mufti alleged.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 13564

(set by Karaoke)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Restores sugar substance on counter without support (6)
5 Reserved yacht finally occupies place in the beach (3,5)
9 Identical fairy lands in a mess perhaps (8)
10 Current units confused native people (6)
11 Strangely cats and canine sleep in shows (10)
12 I hear he repairs pier (4)
13 Unopened gun for consumer (5)
14 Country occupied by senator's sycophants (6)
17 Exclude battered 10 from constitution's fabric (6)
19 Conservative core group accepts communist set of beliefs (5)
22 Swindler conceals primary records to falsify (4)
24 A stern yoga workout – nowhere to be found (4,6)
25 Expert in promotion of riot trouble (6)
26 Deserters enjoy medium level protections (8)
27 Perhaps Bride's superiors angrily left union initially (8)
28 Primarily some amount left after recovering your regular payment (6)

DOWN

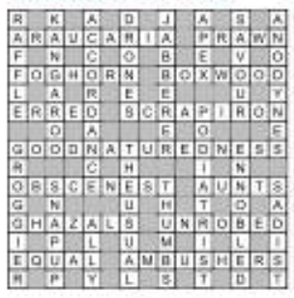
2 Old vacant property finally disposed without tax (6)
3 Methodical to resolve 99 x 15 (9)
4 The main line worker employed to plug leakage (7)
5 Burglar left gold in shop, surprisingly real! (7)
6 36-9? annoyingly dry (7)
7 Dirty criminal leaves fish (5)
8 Revolutionary immersed in out-dated objective (8)
15 Deficiency of autum! (9)
16 Helper takes animal to rodeo perhaps (2-6)
18 Close-knit garment (7)
19 Blackguards have campaigned about unfounded stories (7)
20 Dutch scholar's important date to review problems (7)
21 One giving spiritual guidance over orthodox religion fundamentally (6)
23 Japan's erstwhile capital Kentucky too? Maybe (5)

SUDOKU

4			1				5	
	5				3	6		
	9					4		1
2	4		9		8			
6				2				9
			3		6		4	8
9		3					6	
		4	6				2	
	7				9			5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13563



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	4	1	9	2	8	3	6
9	3	6	7	8	5	1	2	4
8	2	1	6	3	4	7	9	5
1	6	5	3	2	9	4	7	8
4	8	9	5	6	7	2	1	3
3	7	2	8	4	1	6	5	9
6	9	7	4	1	3	5	8	2
2	1	8	9	5	6	3	4	7
5	4	3	2	7	8	9	6	1

FAITH

His inscrutable ways

The Bhagavata Purana brings to light the inscrutable power of the Supreme Lord through the narration of the war between Dhruva and the yakshas. Soon after Dhruva ascended the throne and began his righteous rule, his brother Uttama was killed by a Yaksha during a hunting expedition. Dhruva wished to avenge his death. So he waged a war on the Yakshas that caused much destruction. They retaliated with a magical battle that was too terrifying and Dhruva aimed the Narayana astra to nullify this attack, said Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse.

The enemy was now ruthlessly attacked and then Swayambhuva Manu appeared before Dhruva and asked him to desist from anger and destruction caused by war. He praised Dhruva for his good qualities and righteous conduct and pointed out that it is not the way of the devotees of Vishnu to engage in such slaughter of many innocent people, just to avenge the killing of his brother. The Lord is the antaratma in all beings and the entire universe functions by His Sankalpa. Time or Kala, Prakriti and the Gunas are under His control. By the power of His Yoga Maya when these get agitated, srishti, stiti and samhara take place. But the Lord transcends all these. He remains the unmoved Mover of this universe and all else in it. He is thus the cause or agent of all the happenings but He is not the agent. He is the one who brings about the end of jivatmas who are caught in the cycle of birth but He is not the killer. He is the ultimate cause of creation and destruction including all the destructive forces. He uses others as agents of destruction while He remains endless and unchanging. So Uttama was killed by the Lord in the form of Time and not the yaksha. Dhruva then gave up his anger and made peace with Kubera.

Zelensky seeks more sanctions on Russia

At Davos, he calls for an oil embargo, blocking all banks and cutting off trade with Moscow

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DAVOS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for "maximum" sanctions against Russia during a virtual speech on Monday to corporate executives, government officials and other elites on the first day of the World Economic Forum gathering in Davos.

He said sanctions need to go further to stop Russia's aggression, including an oil embargo, blocking all of its banks and cutting off trade with Russia completely. He said that it's a precedent that would work for decades to come.

"This is what sanctions should be: They should be maximum, so that Russia and every other potential aggressor that wants to wage a brutal war against its neighbour would clearly know the immediate consequences of their actions," Mr. Zelensky said through a translator.

He also pushed for the complete withdrawal of foreign companies from Russia to prevent supporting its war and said Ukraine needs at least $5 billion in funding per month. "The amount of work is enormous: we have more than half a trillion of dollars in losses, tens of thousands of facilities were destroyed. We need to rebuild entire cities and industries," Mr. Zelensky said, coming days after the Group of Seven leading economies agreed to provide $19.8 billion in economic aid.

He said that if Ukraine had "received 100% of our needs at once, back in February" in terms of weapons, funding, political support and sanctions against Russia, "the result would be tens of thousands of lives saved."

Rallying support: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivering remarks at the Congress centre during the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos on Monday. • AFP

Key focus

Mr. Zelensky's speech is a key focus on Monday at Davos, the village in the Swiss Alps that has been transformed into a glitzy venue for the four-day confab ostensibly dedicated to making the world a better place. The event is resuming in person after a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which also delayed this year's meeting from its usual winter slot.

For the attendees, there's much to tackle amid soaring food and fuel prices, Russia's war in Ukraine, climate change, inequality and persistent health crises. But it's hard to predict if the high-minded discussions will yield substantial announcements that make headway on the world's most pressing challenges.

"This war is really a turning point of history, and it will reshape our political and our economic landscape in the coming years," said the event's founder, Klaus Schwab. Mr. Zelensky, who received a standing ovation after his remarks, reiterated that Russia was blocking critical food supplies, such as wheat and sunflower oil, from leaving its ports.

Ukraine, along with Russia, is a major exporter of wheat, barley and sunflower oil, and the interruption of those supplies is threatening food insecurity in countries in Africa, West Asia and parts of Asia that rely on those affordable supplies.

The head of the UN's World Food Program said in a panel that "the failure to open the ports is a declaration of war on global food systems." He told *The Associated Press* that the region's farmers "grow enough food to feed 400 million people."

If such supplies remain off the market, the world could face a food availability problem in the next 10 to 12 months," WFP Executive Director David Beasley said.

Iran warns it will 'avenge' killing of Guards colonel

Biggest strike since the 2020 murder of nuclear scientist

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran will avenge the killing of a Revolutionary Guards colonel who was shot dead in Tehran, President Ebrahim Raisi warned on Monday.

Assailants on motorcycles on Sunday hit Colonel Sayyad Khodai with five bullets as he sat in his car outside his home.

Iran blamed "elements linked to the global arrogance" – the Islamic republic's term for its arch enemy the United States and U.S. allies including Israel.

It was the most high-profile killing inside Iran since the November 2020 murder of top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

Mr. Raisi said: "I insist on the serious pursuit (of the killers) by security officials, and I have no doubt that the blood of this great martyr will be avenged.

"There is no doubt that the hand of global arrogance can be seen in this crime," Mr. Raisi added, echoing the Guards' assertion, before he travelled to Oman where he was to meet Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

High-profile death: Family members of Colonel Sayad Khodai after he was shot in his car in Tehran on Sunday. • REUTERS

A memorial service for Khodai was scheduled in Tehran at 5:00 p.m. local time (1800 IMT) on Monday. The funeral will take place at 8:00 a.m. (0900 IMT) on Tuesday in Imam Hossein Square in central Tehran.

'Defender of sanctuary'

The ideological arm of Iran's military, the Guards described Khodai as a "defender of the sanctuary", a term used for those who work on behalf of Iran in Syria or Iraq. Iran maintains significant political influence in both countries and has backed President Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria's grinding civil war.

Khodai's killing came as negotiations between Iran and world powers to restore a frayed 2015 nuclear deal have stalled since March.

One of the main sticking points is Tehran's demand to remove the Guards from a U.S. terrorism list – a request rejected by Washington.

At the forefront

Price of pandemic: Kim Jong-Un carrying the coffin of Marshal of the Korean People's Army Hyon Chol Hae in Pyongyang on Sunday. He reportedly mentored the North Korean leader to take over from his father Kim Jong Il. • AFP

Russian gets life term in Ukraine's first war crimes trial

Soldier had pleaded guilty to killing a Ukrainian civilian; veteran diplomat resigns, criticising war

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

A Russian soldier who pleaded guilty to killing a Ukrainian civilian was sentenced to life in prison on Monday in the first war crimes trial since Moscow invaded three months ago, unleashing a brutal conflict that has led to accusations of atrocities, left thousands dead, driven millions from their homes and flattened whole swaths of cities.

Ashamed of war

In a rare public expression of opposition to the war from the ranks of the Russian elite, a veteran diplomat resigned and sent a letter to foreign colleagues in which he said he had never been so ashamed as on the day Moscow invaded.

Since then, a stiff Ukrainian resistance has bogged Russian troops down, thwarting their attempt to take the capital, and the two sides are now fighting village by village in the eastern Donbas region.

As the war rages on, judicial authorities worked to hold one low-level soldier to account in a speedy trial.

Sgt. Vadim Shishimarin, 21, pleaded guilty last week to shooting a 62-year-old man in the head in a village in the northeastern Sumy region in the early days of the war.

Shishimarin apologised to the man's widow in court.

Shishimarin's defence attorney, Victor Ovsyanikov, argued that his client had been unprepared for the "violent military confrontation" and mass casualties that Russian troops encountered when they invaded Ukraine. He said he would appeal.

Speaking to reporters before the sentencing, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Moscow was concerned about the Russian soldier's fate but was unable to defend his interests "on the ground."

Nine media workers held in Ethiopia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NAIROBI

At least nine media workers in Ethiopia's northern Amhara region have been arrested by local authorities, their employers said on Monday, as rights activists warned of a sweep of unlawful detentions.

Two outlets – the Nisir International Broadcasting Corporation and Ashara, both covering Ethiopian affairs on their YouTube channels – said their studios in Amhara were raided and staff taken away.

Authorities in Amhara said over 4,000 people suspected of crimes had been arrested in an ongoing enforcement operation.

On Sunday, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) expressed concern about a spate of arrests that had netted "journalists and social activists".

14 bodies wash up on coast of Myanmar

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YANGON

The bodies of 14 persons have been found washed up on a beach in Myanmar, police said on Monday, with a local rescue group saying some were Rohingya attempting to reach Malaysia.

"Fourteen dead bodies were found, and 35 people including the boat owners were rescued alive," a police spokesperson said.

Survivors said 61 people had been on board the vessel, a rescue group member told *AFP*, leaving 12 still missing.

Ahead of Quad, Albanese sworn in as Australia PM

He will represent country at summit

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CANBERRA

Australia's new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was sworn in on Monday and flew to Tokyo for a summit with U.S. President Joe Biden while vote counting continued to determine whether he will control a majority in a Parliament that is demanding tougher action on climate change.

Mr. Albanese and Malaysian-born Penny Wong, Australia's first Foreign Minister to be born overseas, were sworn into office by Governor-General David Hurley before the pair flew to Tokyo for a security summit with Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles was also sworn in and will act as Prime Minister while Mr. Albanese is in Japan.

UN official in China to assess Xinjiang

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING

Allegations of human rights abuses in northwestern China's Xinjiang region will dominate a visit by the United Nations' top rights official that began on Monday.

Michelle Bachelet's trip is the first to China by a UN high commissioner for human rights since 2005, and rights groups warn it threatens to whitewash abuses by the ruling Communist Party in Xinjiang.

China locked up an estimated million or more members of Uighur, Kazakh and other Muslim minorities in what critics describe as a campaign to obliterate their distinct cultural identities. China describes it as a successful campaign to restore order and ethnic cohesion.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/ F-122(23)/1689-9/21-22 Date : 23-05-2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)
KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/21-22/EPR-20/CALL-03 Dtd:28.02.2022 for the work of Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 20 MVA, 66/11KV, T&R make, Sl. No.200094 year of manufacture 2007 Lying at 66/11kV Electronic City Sub-station on total turnkey basis.
The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink 'e-Procurement-KPTCL' or to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 24.05.2022.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru-560009, PH-Fax 22386686-85

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.49, "Parisara Bhavana", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001, Karnataka, INDIA.
Ph: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520 Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in
Tender Ref: No. PCB/CCB/CSO/12/2022-23/1272 Date:20.05.2022
TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF NOISE/SOUND LEVEL METER (TYPE I) WITH PRINTER, CALIBRATOR, CARRYING CASE WITH STAND AND ITS ACCESSORIES
INVITATION FOR TENDER
through Gok e-procurement platform (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)
SECTION I. Invitation for Tender (IFT):
The Member Secretary (purchaser), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tender from eligible tenderers for the supply of Noise/Sound level meter (Type 1). The tenderers must submit tender for the items as per the tender requirement. Tenderers are advised to note the qualification criteria specified in Section VII to qualify for award of the contract.

Sl No.	Description	Req. Qty	EMD to be paid at E-Portal of GOK.	Place of supply
1	Noise/Sound level meter with Printer, Calibrator, carrying case with stand and its accessories (Type I)	100 Nos.	Rs. 4,50,000/-	Head Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bengaluru (Place of delivery will be intimated during award of purchase order)

1 Date of commencement download of tender document from e- portal of Govt of Karnataka: 20.05.2022 after 11.00 hrs.
2 Last date for query during pre-bid meeting: 31.05.2022 at 12.00 hrs.
3 Last date and time for receipt of tenders: 18.06.2022 up to 16.00 hrs.
4 Time and date of opening of tenders: 20.06.2022 after 11.00 hrs.
5 Place of opening of tenders: Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, "ParisaraBhavan", # 49, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001
Sd/-
Member Secretary
DIPR/CPI603/GREENFMC/2022-23
"AVOID USE OF PLASTICS - BE 'ECO' FRIENDLY"

भारतीय खाद्य निगम
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
INVITATION FOR E-TENDERS THROUGH GeM PORTAL
FCI, RO, Hyderabad is inviting tenders for appointment of Road Transport Contract from CWC Mokhandanagar, PWS Vadathalai & CWC Gudwal to Gulbarga, Yadgir, Bellary & Raichur district godowns. For further details, please visit GeM Portal(https://gem.gov.in) or FCI Website(www.fci.gov.in).
महाप्रबंधक (क्षेत्र) / General Manager (Region)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 07 UBL 2022-23
Dated: 17.05.2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

SL	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	Hubballi Division: Hubballi- Repairs to water supply at golf link Officers Colony and Brock Road officers colony Hubballi.	Rs. 49,22,238/-
2	Hubballi Division: Hubballi-Londa Section:- Alnawar: improvements to bridge protection work and construction of retaining walls for br no. 148 at Km. 526/800-900 near Alnawar station.	Rs. 1,91,47,816/-
3	Hubballi Division: Proposed construction of compound wall, obstacles, PT track, short range, parade ground for RPF at Hubballi.	Rs. 1,26,32,839/-
4	Hubballi Division: Proposed construction of subway in lieu of LC No. 292 at km. 479/900-480/00 between Amargol-Navalur station in Hubballi-Londa Section.	Rs. 4,84,20,489/-
5	Hubballi Division: Sub Work 1) Repairs to quarters at golf link colony, Brock Road colony and colony behind Railway Hospital by exterior painting at Hubballi. Sub Work 2) Repairs to watering system to New Running Room, women RPF barrack Tungabhadra Rest House by functioning of GLR and OH at South side Hubballi. Sub Work 3) Repairs to Roof, Court yard and drainage of quarters No. 475/A & B, 476/A&B, 478/A&B, 479/A&B, 480/A&B, 483/A&B, 484/A&B, 486/A&B, 487/A&B, 627/A-E,275/UBL, 118/A&B, 131/A&B, 48/A-M, 312/A-L (Total-54 Units) at Cement chawl and Down chawl society line.	Rs. 1,11,88,216/-

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs. of 15.06.2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ord Hubballi
PUB/102/AVA/PRESS/WR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that, my clients intend to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: (1) Sri. M.S. Harish, (2) Sri. M.S. Girish, (3) Smt. Kavitha Madhusudhan (the parties No.1, 2 &3 are children of late M. Srinivasa) and (4) Smt. Geetha Ramesh W/o late G.P. Ramesh and her children.
If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.9 (PID No.50-12-9) & 10 (PID No. 50-12-10), measuring East to West 30 ft and North to South 74ft, in all measuring 2220Sq.ft, with a building thereon, situated at Anjaneya Temple Street, V.V.Puram, Bangalore and bounded on:
East by : Private property
West by : Private property
North by : Conservancy
South by : Anjaneya Temple Street
Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my client had entered into an Agreement of Sale to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner Sri.Mahesh Rajaramkelkar S/o. Mr.K.Rajaramkelkar, residing at No.G-002 situated at 5th Cross Road, Chikkabanaswadi Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru-560043 East Taluq. The Owner represent that apart from him there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Property and that he has not created any lien or encumbered the Schedule Property in any manner or entered into any Agreement of Sale/Joint Development Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding with any other person. If any person/s having objections/s or claims may with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claims within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction and claim/s if any shall be deemed to have been waived.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the Apartment bearing No.G-001 situated at 5th Cross Road, Chikkabanaswadi Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru-560043 and having municipal khatha No.175/2 PID No.84-16-175/2 and having built up area of 1,125 Sq.Ft and superbuilt up area of 280 Sq.Ft along with one car parking slot and the said Schedule Property is bounded on the
East by : 30 feet Road
West by : Apartment No.002
North by : Private Property
South by : Private Property
Place : Bengaluru
Date : 24-05-2022
N.JAYARAMAN ASSOCIATE ADVOCATE
NALJA C-4 269, 3rd MAIN ROAD, DOMLUR II STAGE III PHASE, BANGALORE 560 071

vedanta
CAIRN
CATERING AND HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES FOR OIL & GAS OPERATIONS
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Vedanta Ltd. Limited is the world's 6th largest diversified natural resources conglomerate with business operations in India, South Africa, Namibia and Australia. It is a leading producer of Oil & Gas, Zinc, Lead, Silver, Copper, Iron Ore, Steel, Aluminium & Power.
Vedanta contributes 1% towards India's GDP, as per IFC. We are investing $9 Bn in capital projects over the next 2 - 3 years to double our revenues from current levels of $15 Bn.
Cairn Oil & Gas, Vedanta Ltd., is India's largest private oil and gas exploration and production company having current interest in 58 blocks and accounting for more than a quarter of India's domestic crude oil production and a vision to produce 50% of India's oil and gas production. Cairn Oil & Gas on behalf of itself and Joint Venture (JV) partner(s) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced contractors with demonstrated HSEQ performance and proven track record in similar requirement to express their interest in pre-qualification to participate in the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) process for provision of catering, housekeeping, and multiple facility management services for offshore blocks located in Ravva in Andhra Pradesh and CB/OS-2 in Gujarat, India.
SUSTAINABLE & RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT
ENABLING OIL & GAS PRODUCTION FROM OFFSHORE BLOCKS
Please submit your Expression of Interest (EoI) to participate in the NCB process within 14 days. Click on the "Evince Interest" link against the corresponding EOI listing at https://www.cairnindia.com/Pages/OpenEOI.aspx
For further information, bidders can login to www.cairnindia.com

MARKET WATCH

	23-05-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	54,289	-0.07
US Dollar	77.55	0.10
Gold	50,926	0.63
Brent oil	113.23	-.-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	753.55	-14.00
Apollo Hosp	3716.95	48.95
Asian Paints	3174.20	64.25
Axis Bank	675.35	2.25
Bajaj Auto	3786.15	-1.65
Bajaj Finserv	12572.90	11.20
Bajaj Finance	5794.00	24.40
Bharti Airtel	685.85	-2.05
BPCL	332.10	-0.70
Britannia Ind	3487.05	36.80
Cipla	970.05	-8.35
Coal India	184.30	-1.65
Divis Lab	3897.90	-406.90
Dr Reddys Lab	4274.95	25.85
Eicher Motors	2741.30	33.50
Grasim Ind	1457.40	-30.95
HCL Tech	1018.30	-10.55
HDFC	2175.95	-25.65
HDFC Bank	1304.00	-16.95
HDFC Life	551.15	6.45
Hero MotoCorp	2624.70	34.55
Hindalco	413.15	-15.95
Hind Unilever	2379.80	53.85
ICICI Bank	711.05	1.50
Indusind Bank	902.40	5.90
Infosys	1468.40	13.25
ITC	274.50	-5.50
JSW Steel	547.55	-83.55
Kotak Bank	1854.30	25.15
L&T	1644.15	34.05
M&M	941.90	38.10
Maruti Suzuki	7897.45	310.85
Nestle India Ltd.	16994.30	132.30
NTPC	150.15	0.55
ONGC	155.10	-6.80
PowerGrid Corp	224.60	-4.45
Reliance Ind	2606.90	-17.55
SBI Life	1076.50	5.15
State Bank	460.90	-1.50
Shree Cement	21941.70	-59.50
Sun Pharma	922.05	6.40
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	729.70	-9.90
Tata Motors	421.45	3.45
Tata Steel	1022.95	-147.65
TCS	3321.75	28.75
Tech Mahindra	1142.90	12.00
Titan	2151.30	14.25
UltraTech Cement	5916.30	-212.35
UPL	791.25	-17.00
Wipro	466.00	6.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.32	77.64
Euro	82.51	82.85
British Pound	97.20	97.61
Japanese Yen (100)	60.69	60.94
Chinese Yuan	11.63	11.68
Swiss Franc	79.99	80.37
Singapore Dollar	56.26	56.51
Canadian Dollar	60.41	60.69
Malaysian Ringitt	17.60	17.70
Australian Dollar	54.97	55.21

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

HP seizes counterfeit products worth ₹40 cr.

BENGALURU

HP India has seized ₹40 crore worth 4,98,000 counterfeit products between July 2020 and September 2021 under its Anti-Counterfeiting and Fraud (ACF) Programme in the country. In the past year, HP's ACF team in APAC seized 2.5 million counterfeit products, the company said.

Chola, CarWale sign pact for used-car financing

CHENNAI

CarTrade Tech's CarWale abSure has entered into a strategic partnership with Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (Chola) to offer financing for used cars. Under the agreement, Chola will be the preferred financier for customers purchasing used vehicles from CarWale abSure dealers.

GDP likely grew only 3.5% in Q4: ICRA

'Commodity price spikes, lower wheat yields amid heatwave, Omicron hit contact-driven sectors'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's GDP growth may have slowed to 3.5% in the fourth quarter of 2021-22, from 5.4% in the October to December 2021 quarter, rating agency ICRA has projected. The economy's Gross Value Added (GVA) is expected to rise even slower at 2.7% between January and March 2022, compared with 4.7% in the previous quarter.

The rating firm attributed the downturn in growth momentum to the impact of higher commodity prices on margins, dip in wheat yields and the hiccups in the recovery of contact-intensive services owing to the third COVID-19 wave, as well as the high base from last year.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) is scheduled to release updated national income estimates for 2021-22 on May 31. In its last estimates, the NSO had projected a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 8.9% for the last financial year, assuming a 4.8% growth rate for the fourth quarter.

Feeling the drag: The NSO had projected 8.9% GDP growth for FY22, assuming a 4.8% growth rate for Q4. • REUTERS

"The last quarter (Q4) of 2021-22 was challenging, with the Omicron-fuelled third wave of COVID-19 arresting momentum in contact-intensive services, and a pervasive pressure on margins from higher commodity prices," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

> **We are apprehensive that agriculture and industry will post a sub-1% GVA growth**
>
> ADITI NAYAR
> Chief Economist, ICRA

"Moreover, the heat wave has adversely affected wheat output in March 2022. We are apprehensive that both agriculture and industry will post a sub-1% GVA growth, whereas services growth will print at around 5.4% for the quarter," she added.

Tripped momentum

This indicates a sharp sequential dip – services had recorded GVA growth of 8.2% in the previous quarter, while industry had grown 0.2%, and agriculture by 2.6%. The Omicron effect could halve the growth rate for contact-intensive trade, hotels, transport, communication and services sectors to about 3% in Q4 from 6.1% in Q3, the agency reckoned.

ICRA expected India's retail inflation to average 6.5% in 2022-23 and said the recent cuts in petroleum taxes, which have been backed by reduction in State levies on petrol and diesel by Maharashtra and Kerala, could bolster sentiment and create some cushion for stretched household budgets.

Moreover, Ms. Nayar said, "the downshift in the inflation trajectory for the remainder of this year has pared the likelihood of sharply front-loaded monetary tightening".

Heatwaves could worsen inflation pressures, affect growth, says Moody's

'Rule changes can only temper prices'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service said on Monday that the prolonged heatwaves seen in India this summer were credit negative as they would exacerbate inflation pressures and challenges to growth. The agency added that the ban on wheat exports would hurt growth and reflected a missed opportunity to capture the global market.

Noting that New Delhi experienced its fifth heatwave since March on May 15, Moody's pointed out that such waves usually occurred in May and June. "The prolonged high temperatures, which are affecting much of the northwest of the country, will curb wheat production and could lead to extended power outages, exacerbating already high inflation and hurting growth, a credit negative," the global rating firm said in a comment on India's sovereign rating.

'Coal stocks decline'

Expressing concern about India's coal stocks, which had declined 23% to just 7.8 days' worth by mid-May, Moody's warned of prolonged power outages in industrial and agricultural production if this persisted, leading to significant cuts to output and weighing further on India's economic growth – 'particularly if the heatwaves continue beyond June'.

Inflation, it noted, will only be partially alleviated by measures such as the central bank's policy rate hikes, cap on power prices in exchanges, and the wheat export ban. "Given the prominence of cereals and food more generally in India's consumption, elevated food prices could add to social risks if they persist," it emphasised.

While the ban on wheat exports – prompted by a 5.4% downward revision in production estimates for the year – would partially offset inflationary pressures, it would also hurt exports and subsequently growth, said Moody's, which has rated India Baa3 – reflecting the lowest investment grade – with a stable outlook.

"The ban comes at a time when India – the world's second-largest wheat producer – could have been capitalising on the global output gap from wheat following the Russia-Ukraine military conflict. Global wheat prices have jumped 47% since the conflict began in late February," it pointed out.

"Over the longer term, India's highly negative credit exposure to physical climate risks – which contributes to the country's highly negative environmental risk issuer profile score and credit impact score – means its economic growth will likely become more volatile as it faces increasing, and more extreme, incidences of climate-related shocks," the note concluded.

Export duty hike will hurt, say mining, steel groups

'May dampen investment in steel'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

The increase in export taxes on iron ore announced by the government would lead to large surpluses at home, and mainly hit producers of low-grade ores that depend on overseas markets, a mining industry body said.

The Centre had announced that export tariffs on new iron ores and concentrates would be raised to 50% from 30%, and duties on pellets would be increased to 45% from zero. It also removed import tariffs for coking coal and coke.

"This is self-defeating, actually, because there will be a lot of stockpiling," R.K. Sharma, secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries said.

India also raised export tax by 15% on eight steel intermediates and scrapped import duty on coking coal, shortages of which have been driving up steel prices.

"The latest policy will dampen fresh investments," Dilip Oommen, president of the Indian Steel Association, told Reuters.

China COVID-19 curbs could hit Indian manufacturing: Crisil

Supplies of key import items have slowed, says agency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The tough restrictions imposed by China to curb COVID-19 transmission could hurt India's domestic manufacturers as supplies of key import items such as plastic, chemicals and mechanical equipment have slowed down, rating agency Crisil said on Monday.

Supply-chain disruptions in China will likely persist through the rest of year • AFP

India's import dependence on China has reversed gains made prior to the pandemic, with its trade deficit rising drastically to $73 billion in 2021-22, the firm noted. India's goods exports to China were $21.2 billion (stagnant compared with 2020-21), while imports surged to $94.2 billion from $65.3 billion the year earlier, making the country India's biggest import partner.

"Supply-chain disruptions in China will likely persist through the rest of the year... In such a scenario, further slowdown in imports from China could potentially affect manufacturing activity domestically," Crisil said in the report.

FDI equity inflows fell 1% in FY22: DPIIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted marginally, by 1%, to $58.77 billion in FY22, according to official data. Inflows had stood at ₹59.63 billion during FY21, data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) showed.

However, total foreign direct investment into India rose by 2% to the 'highest ever' $83.57 billion in 2021-22. Total FDI inflows include equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital.

In FY22, Singapore topped the list with $15.87 billion in investments.

IHCL eyes being free of debt, raises margin target

It seeks 300-hotel portfolio by FY26

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (IHCL), India's largest hospitality company and a part of the Tata Group, said it was aiming to become debt-free and to raise EBITDA margins by 800 basis points (bps) to 33% by FY26, 'after having successfully crossed the earlier target of 25%'.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) show the financial performance of a company before accounting and financial deductions.

For the targeted margin, 35% EBITDA contribution will come from new businesses and management fees. The rest would come from traditional businesses, IHCL said. The company also said it would build a portfolio of 300 hotels by that time, compared with the 235 it currently has. Of the 300, a third would carry the Taj brand, 125 would come under Ginger and 75 would be come under Seleqtions and Vivanta brands.

These form part of Ahvaan [A call to action] 2025, which the company unveiled on Monday. Under the plan, IHCL said it would 're-engineer' its margins, 'reimagine' its brandscape and restructure its portfolio.

Puneet Chhatwal, managing director and CEO, said IHCL had a 'strong' pipeline of 60 hotels.

India, U.K. data-safety paper released

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

To promote data protection while enabling free flow of data in the U.K.-India corridor, Nasscom, U.K. India Business Council and TechUK have released a joint position paper on Monday.

The paper features recommendations for both governments to consider as part of the ongoing India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement negotiations, as per a Nasscom statement.

The paper would inform the governments on their efforts to reform domestic regimes on personal data protection and cross-border data transfer, Nasscom added.

Ramco Cements Q4 net dips 42% on fuel prices

Board declares ₹3 per share dividend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Ramco Cements Ltd. has posted a 42% drop in standalone net profit for the fourth quarter ended March to ₹124 crore following a sharp increase in fuel prices and weak cement prices.

Revenue from operations grew 4.5% to ₹1,698 crore. Cement sales contracted by 1% to 31.92 lakh tonnes.

Diesel prices on average climbed by 20%, pet coke by 89% and prices of imported coal from Indonesia by 138%, the company said in a stock exchange filing.

Stating that the industry was not able to pass the entire cost to the customers, the company added that as

fuel prices peaked during FY22, power and fuel costs per tonne of cement rose to ₹1,257 from ₹797. As the firm had chosen the lower tax rate option for FY22, it was entitled to write back the excess deferred tax provision of ₹306 crore. Hence, the net profit was higher by that amount for that year.

The company proposed to expand the capacity of its dry-mix products, it said.

The board declared a dividend of ₹3 per share.

Akasa releases first look of its aircraft

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Akasa Air on Monday released the the first look of its aircraft, with purple and orange-coloured brand logo.

Akasa will take the delivery of its Boeing 737 MAX aircraft in India by mid-June, after which it will be able to carry out proving flights for the DGCA to get an air-operator's certificate for starting commercial flights.

Meanwhile, Jet Airways, which got the AOC last week and aims to re-start operations by September this year after a gap of three years, announced key senior appointments.

SPORT

Thomas makes incredible rally

Wins playoff against Zalatoris; Pereira implodes on final hole

PGA C'SHIP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TULSA (USA)

Justin Thomas matched the greatest last-day comeback in PGA Championship history on Sunday, roaring back from seven strokes down to capture his second Major title.

The 29-year-old American defeated compatriot Will Zalatoris by one stroke in a tension-packed three-hole aggregate playoff after a heartbreaking 72nd-hole collapse by Chile's Mito Pereira.

Pereira led all day only to hit his final tee shot into water and launch a double-bogey disaster at the 18th hole.

Not since John Mahaffey's seven-shot rally at Oakmont in 1978 had anyone made such a fightback to win the PGA Championship.

Wow moment! Thomas celebrates his winning putt with caddie Jim Mackay. • AFP

Thomas, who also won the 2017 PGA title, fired a three-under 67 in Sunday's final round and Zalatoris, last year's Masters runner-up, shot 71 to finish deadlocked on five-under 275.

Four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy, who began nine behind, made four birdies on the first five holes but never sank another and settled for 68 to finish eighth.

The scores:

275: Justin Thomas (USA) 67, 67, 74, 67, Will Zalatoris (USA) 66, 65, 73, 71; **276:** Cameron Young (USA) 71, 67, 67, 71, Mito Pereira (Chi) 68, 64, 69, 75.

277: Chris Kirk (USA) 68, 70, 71, 68, Tommy Fleetwood (Eng) 71, 70, 69,67, Matthew Fitzpatrick (Eng) 68, 69, 67, 73; **278:** Rory McIlroy (NIR) 65 ,71, 74, 68.

Abhijeet shares lead

SPORTS BUREAU

Abhijeet Gupta outplayed Raunak Sadhwani in 40 moves to stretch his all-win sequence and shared the lead with Azerbaijan's Misratdin Iskandarov after three rounds of the $60,000 Sharjah Masters chess on Monday.

Important results (third round): Raunak Sadhwani (2) lost to Abhijeet Gupta (3); Aryan Chopra (2) drew with Nijat Abasov (Aze, 2); Aravindh Chithambaram (2) drew with Pavel Ponkratov (FIDE, 2); Mohammad Muradli (Aze, 2.5) bt B. Adhiban (1.5).

S.L. Narayanan (2) bt Meruert Kamalidenova (Kaz, 1.5); Denis Kadric (B&H) lost to Arjun Erigaisi (2); D. Gukesh (2) bt Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 1); Sankalp Gupta (1.5) drew with Jules Moussard (Fra, 1.5); Surya Shekhar Ganguly (2) bt Oliver Dimakiling (Phi, 1); Aditya Mittal (0.5) lost to Mert Erdogdu (Tur, 1.5).

CoA's guidelines to come into effect from October 1

New selection/ranking criteria for domestic and international tournaments

TABLE TENNIS

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) running the affairs of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) has released a new document on the TTFI website that covers a wide gamut of issues including the 'Conflict of Interest' and inconsistencies in selection of players for major international tournaments.

On or after

Among them is the new selection/ranking criteria for domestic and international tournaments that will come into force on October 1, 2022 "or immediately after the first ranking tournament, whichever is earlier."

Explaining its strong stand on several issues, the CoA said: "the existing selection criteria and process are manifestly inadequate in implementing the vision and administrative goals of TTFI or in ensuring that the Indian table tennis players have the assurance of a transparent and consistent selection framework."

The CoA had released a new criteria proposal on April 6 seeking suggestions from all stakeholders – players, parents, coaches and State associations.

After receiving the feedback, it has come up with the criteria which it says is "inclusive and fair".

The CoA summarily rejected the current system that gives 50% and 30% weightage for domestic and international rankings and 20% for selectors' discretion.

The CoA said domestic performances should be considered for lower age-group players. "It (domestic performances) should be particularly prioritised in younger age-groups where players are still evolving and play most often on the domestic circuit."

International exposure

International appearances, the CoA said, may be maintained to provide exposure rather than to seek ranking points for age-group paddlers.

For u-11, 13 & 15, there is no percentile for international performances. But, 80% has been given for domestic performances and 20% for selectors' discretion each in u-11 to u-15.

In the u-17, 19 categories, more weightage is given for domestic performance - 60 & 50% respectively. However, for seniors (men & women), equal weightage of 40% has been given for domestic and international performances.

Foror selection to the Indian team (men & women), a player should have played the National championships and two ranking events. For other age-groups, the Nationals and four ranking events, including the Khelo India Games, is the criterion.

Discretionary powers

It also highlighted the need for chief coaches to be Special Invitees at all Selection Committee meetings. The CoA also insisted that selectors should explain the reasons for exercising their powers and the same should be documented and disclosed.

The CoA also listed several cases of inconsistency by the TTFI when it came to selecting the National team for international tournaments.

High-flying Titans, rejuvenated Royals eye direct route to final

The former would follow the success formula that has worked so far while the latter would like to pay tribute to its 2008 title-winning skipper and mentor Warne

Positive vibes: Hardik's pro-active captaincy has helped Titans evolve into a formidable unit. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

IPL 2022

Y. B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

As the Indian Premier League bandwagon returns to Kolkata after three years for this edition's first two playoff matches, the cricket-loving fans will hope that the rain forecast does not come true.

The Qualifier 1 – between the top-ranked new entrant Gujarat Titans and the second-placed Rajasthan Royals which won the inaugural title in 2008 – at the Eden Gardens here on Tuesday is expected to be a keenly-contested one as the winner of the match will earn a direct passage to the final.

Little significance

The fact that Titans beat Royals in their only duel five weeks ago will have little significance as it happened well before the sides hit the reset button. Ashish Nehra's cricketing acumen and Hardik Pandya's pro-active captaincy has built Titans as a formidable unit. Its key members have played their roles well.

While Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman Saha have accumulated crucial runs at the top, Hardik, who is the team's highest scorer with 413 runs, and David Miller have contributed handsomely.

Spinner Rashid Khan and pacer Mohammed Shami have taken 18 wickets apiece.

Coached by Kumar Sangakkara, Royals have picked the right personnel and have used them well to reach the playoffs after four years.

Top run-getter Jos Buttler (629) and top wicket-taker Yuzvendra Chahal (26) have shouldered the bulk of the responsibility. Captain Sanju Samson and Devdutt Padikkal have chipped in when needed. Trent Boult, Prasidh Krishna and R. Ashwin have strengthened the bowling department.

While Royals would like to pay tribute to its former captain and mentor Shane Warne by winning back the trophy, Titans would love to ensure a memorable finish by taking the champion's tag.

Power Point | As the top two gear up for Qualifier 1 on Tuesday, a survey of their **PowerPlay** chart

GUJARAT TITANS		RAJASTHAN ROYALS
645 (2339*)	Runs scored	688 (2464)
10 (69)	Sixes	27 (116)
59/0 vs. SRH	Highest score	67/1 vs. PBKS
25 (85)	Wickets taken	24 (90)
253 (594)	Dot balls bowled	262 (612)
32/4, LSG	Lowest score by opponent	14/3, SRH

* Numbers in brackets indicate the teams' total figures in 2022

INDIVIDUAL

212 Saha — MOST RUNS — 303 Buttler

7 Saha — MOST SIXES — 17 Buttler

11 Shami — MOST WICKETS — 8 Boult, 8 Prasidh

123 Shami — MOST DOT BALLS — 115 Boult

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO — COMPILED BY G. PRASAD

> Captaincy has been a big part of our success. Hardik has absolutely been involved
>
> VIKRAM SOLANKI
> Director, Titans

TODAY'S MATCH

QUALIFIER 1

GT vs. RR

EDEN GARDENS, 7.30 P.M.

FORM GUIDE
(last five matches, latest game first)

GT L | W | W | L | L
RR W | W | L | W | L

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Aiming high: Samson will be determined to raise his game in the playoffs phase. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Breakout stars bring vibrancy

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

They are the new kids on the block. The breakout stars of IPL 2022, bringing with them freshness and vibrancy.

Umran Malik made a brief appearance at the fag end of IPL 2021 but it is in the ongoing edition that the fast bowler from Jammu & Kashmir has catapulted to another level.

He has hustled the batters, taking them out of their comfort zone with vicious lifters, and tormented them with precision, full length and swing at blistering pace. The bat was often late on the furiously travelling ball.

Umran's delivery, clocked at 157 kmph remains the quickest ball in this IPL and his five for 25 for Sunrisers Hyderabad against Gujarat Titans in a high-scoring humdinger showcased searing pace and wicked movement. So far, he has 21 scalps.

The emergence of Mohsin Khan as a young, potent left-arm quick for Lucknow Super Giants was bad news for the batters. The 23-year-old Uttar Pradesh seamer has speed; his quickest delivery was clocked at 151 kmph.

And along with pace, he brings in the left-armer's angles, nipping it back into the right-hander.

Umran... catching the eye. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Mohsin impressed with his control. He revealed the temperament to bowl in tough situations, and his stunning changes of pace, without losing accuracy, flummoxed batters.

In high-pressure death overs, Mohsin thrived. K.L. Rahul used Mohsin and the more experienced Avesh Khan cleverly, creating a rivalry that benefited both.

Mohsin has 13 wickets in eight games but his economy rate is a jaw-dropping 5.93.

Chennai Super Kings had a forgettable season but left-arm seamer Mukesh Choudhary [16 wickets] made an impression with his lively pace, good carry and two-way movement.

The young Wanindu Hasaranga was a show stopper for Royal Challengers Bangalore with 24 scalps in the league phase. Brave of heart and unafraid to throw the ball up, Hasaranga got his leg-spinners to turn and bounce while his googlies and top-spinners stung.

The batting was dominated by those who have been around for some time but Mumbai Indians' Tilak Varma caught the eye.

The 19-year-old left-hander has a solidity that is hard to ignore and he, soaking in the pressure, made crucial and attractive runs in the middle-order, going past the 350-mark for the season. Crucially, he plays the ball late, can find the gaps and reads situations capably.

Among others grabbing attention was man mountain Tim David, who covered ground as if gobbling up tiny toffees for huge sixes, twinkle-footed Baby AB, Dewald Brevis, who took his first few steps in a man's world, and young strokemaker Abhishek Sharma, who finally found consistency to back his ability.

The new kids on the block – they are here to stay.

Pooja fashions Supernovas' win over Trailblazers

Her four-for derails the chase after Dottin, Harleen and Harmanpreet shine with the bat

Stellar show: Pooja, second from left, had the Trailblazers batters in knots. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

T20 CHALLENGE

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
PUNE

On a Monday night, caressed by a gentle wind at the MCA Stadium here, the Women's T20 Challenge made its much-awaited return after a year's interval. The opening match proved something of a mismatch, however, as defending champion Trailblazers was humbled by Supernovas by 49 runs.

Chasing Supernovas' 163, the highest total in the tournament's history, Trailblazers batters struggled after a promising first-wicket stand of 39 in five overs between skipper Smriti Mandhana (34, 23b, 4x4) and Hayley Matthews (18, 14b, 2x4, 1x6). Trailblazers collapsed spectacularly – from 63 for one to 73 for seven – against a disciplined bowling attack backed by fine fielding.

The West Indian was first to go. She made room to hit Pooja Vastrakar over the offside, only to nick to the 'keeper. The impressive seamer then removed Smriti, who fell to a superb, tumbling catch at mid-on by Priya Punia.

In the same over, Priya came up with another fine catch to send Sophia Dunkley back. Pooja's splendid spell would read four for 12 from four overs.

Earlier, batting first after winning the toss, openers Deandra Dottin (32, 17b, 5x4, 1x6) and Priya (22, 20b, 2x4, 1x6) gave a great start for Supernovas; 50 was up on the board in the fifth over.

The intent was clear when Priya stepped out and lofted Renuka Singh's last ball of the first over for a six. The medium-pacer went for more in her second over, as Dottin smashed three fours.

The West Indian, in fact, was looking in ominous touch when a direct hit from Sharmin Akhter had her run-out, going for a second run. She was followed in the dugout a couple of overs later by Priya, who was bowled, trying to pull Matthews.

The third wicket-stand between Harleen Deol (35, 19b, 5x4) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (37, 29b, 4x4) took the score to 100 in the 12th over. Then, Harleen was trapped lbw by Salma Khatun. The total, however, proved more than enough.

Today's match: Supernovas vs Velocity, 3.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

SUPERNOVAS
Priya Punia b Matthews 22 (20b, 2x4, 1x6), Deandra Dottin run out 32 (17b, 5x4, 1x6), Harleen Deol lbw b Khatun 35 (19b, 5x4), Harmanpreet Kaur run out 37 (29b, 4x4), Sune Luus c Renuka b Rajeshwari 10 (11b, 1x4), Alana King c Smriti b Khatun 5 (4b, 1x4), Pooja Vastrakar c Richa b Poonam 14 (12b, 1x4), Sophie Ecclestone lbw b Matthews 5 (3b, 1x4), Taniya Bhatia (not out) 1 (1b), Meghna Singh run out 2 (2b), V. Chandu lbw b Matthews 0 (2b); Total (in 20 overs): 163.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-50 (Dottin, 4.6 overs), 2-63 (Priya, 7.1), 3-100 (Harleen, 11.2), 4-121 (Luus, 14.3), 5-128 (King, 15.3), 6-155 (Pooja 18.4), 7-160 (Harmanpreet, 18.6), 8-160 (Ecclestone, 19.1), 9-163 (Meghna, 19.4).

TRAILBLAZERS BOWLING
Renuka 2-0-22-0, Rajeshwari 4-0-34-1, Arundhati 2-0-19-0, Matthews 4-0-29-3, Poonam 4-0-29-1, Khatun 4-0-30-2.

TRAILBLAZERS
Smriti Mandhana c Priya b Pooja 34 (23b, 4x4), Hayley Matthews c Taniya b Pooja 18 (14b, 2x4, 1x6), Jemimah Rodrigues c Harleen b Meghna 24 (21b, 4x4), Sophia Dunkley c Priya b Pooja 1 (2b), Sharmin Akhter b King 0 (4b), Richa Ghosh c Dottin b Ecclestone 2 (8b), Arundhati Reddy st. Taniya b Ecclestone 0 (1b), Salma Khatun c Ecclestone b Pooja 0 (7b), Poonam Yadav c Harleen b King 7 (12b), Renuka Singh (not out) 14 (18b, 2x4), Rajeshwari Gayakwad (not out) 7 (10b, 1x4); Extras (lb-4, w-3): 7; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 114.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-39 (Matthews, 4.6), 2-63 (Smriti, 7.2), 3-65 (Dunkley, 7.5), 4-67 (Akhter, 8.4), 5-72 (Richa, 10.2), 6-72 (Arundhati, 10.3), 7-73 (Khatun, 11.5), 8-86 (Jemimah, 13.5), 9-94 (Poonam, 16.2).

SUPERNOVAS BOWLING
Chandu 3-0-26-0, Meghna 3-0-16-1, Ecclestone 4-0-19-1, Pooja 4-0-12-4, King 4-0-30-2, Dottin 2-0-7-0.

Toss: Supernovas.
Player-of-the-match: Pooja.
Supernovas won by 49 runs.

Anand shares second spot

SPORTS BUREAU

Viswanathan Anand fought valiantly and signed off with two successive victories for a share of the second spot behind local favourite Jan-Krzysztof Duda in the Grand Chess Tour Superbet rapid and blitz tournament in Warsaw, Poland, on Monday.

Anand, winner of the rapid segment and overall leader after a day of blitz, finished with 23.5 points, same as Levon Aronian, and half a point behind the champion. The final day defeats to Duda and Aronian hurt Anand's chances in spite of his strong finish.

Beginning the final day with a 1.5-point lead, Anand lost to Duda and Anton Korobov, drew with David Gavrilescu, defeated Kirill Shevchenko, lost to Aronian, drew with Wesley So and Caruana Fabiano, beat Richard Rapport and Radoslaw Wojtaszek.

Having entered the field as a wildcard, Anand appeared a strong contender to the overall title. He scored over Aronian in the rapid format and Duda in the first blitz game. His other prominent victims included So (twice) and Rapport.

Parry dethrones Krejcikova; Nadal cruises past Thompson

Anisimova stuns Osaka again; Swiatek extends unbeaten run to 29; Kontaveit knocked out; Alcaraz too good for Londero

DAY IN NUMBERS

2 Second win in as many matches for Anisimova over Osaka. The first came at the 2022 Australian Open

3 Krejcikova is just the third defending French Open women's singles champion in the Open Era to crash out in the first round. Previous: Myskina (2005) and Ostapenko (2018)

4 Fourth straight Grand Slam tournament in which Osaka has not gone past the third round since winning the 2021 Australian Open

> It was very difficult, a lot of anticipation. I was trying not to think about it too much, but going into the match, I did feel the stress. Just happy with how I was able to manage it
>
> ANISIMOVA after beating Osaka

TUESDAY'S PICKS

MEN	WOMEN
2-Medvedev vs. Bagnis	3-Badosa vs. Ferro
4-Tsitsipas vs. Musetti (N)	7-Sabalenka vs. Paquet
7-Rublev vs. Kwon	8-Pliskova vs. Andrianjafitrimo
8-Ruud vs. Tsonga	19-Halep vs. Schunk

(N): Night session

14 No.1 Swiatek has won 15 career matches at the French Open and 14 of those have come in straight sets. Monday was also her 29th consecutive match-win on the WTA Tour

ANISIMOVA

ROLAND-GARROS

REUTERS
PARIS

Barbora Krejcikova's French Open title defence ended in the opening round on Monday as local hope Diane Parry was roared to a 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory against the second-seeded Czech.

Rafael Nadal began his pursuit of a record-extending 14th French Open title with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Australian World No. 82 Jordan Thompson.

Fifth seed Nadal improved his Roland Garros record to 106 wins and just three losses since his 2005 title-winning debut.

"I'm very happy with the victory today. I'm happy to get through in three sets," said Nadal, seeded outside the top four in Paris for just the second time in his career. "It's a first round, a positive match for me. Straight sets but with significant room for improvement."

The Spaniard will play Corentin Moutet in round two after the French wildcard defeated 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka in four sets.

Krejcikova arrived at Roland Garros without any competitive matches under her belt since February due to an elbow injury. But she breezed through the opening set against the 97th-ranked Parry, who was facing a top-10 opponent for the first time in her career, before her rustiness showed. And the 19-year-old Parry cashed in on it.

Diane's day out: Parry, facing a top-10 player for the first time in her career, turned the tables on Krejcikova. • GETTY IMAGES

Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka fell at the first hurdle, losing 5-7, 4-6 to American Amanda Anisimova. Twice Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova rallied from 2-5 to take the first set against Hungarian Anna Bondar in the tie-breaker before cruising through the second.

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek put on a commanding display against Ukrainian qualifier Lesia Tsurenko, winning 6-2, 6-0 and extending her unbeaten streak to 29 matches. Fifth-seeded Anett Kontaveit was knocked out, the fourth top-10 player to fall before the end of the second day. Kontaveit lost 6-7(5), 5-7 to Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic.

On Sunday, Carlos Alcaraz steamrolled Argentine lucky loser Juan Ignacio Londero 6-4, 6-2, 6-0 to kick off his campaign in style.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round

Men: 5-Nadal (Esp) bt Thompson (Aus) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2; 29-Evans (GBR) bt Cerundolo (Arg) 7-6(3), 6-4, 6-4; 22-Basilashvili (Geo) bt Cressy (USA) 3-6, 2-6, 7-6(8), 6-4, 6-4; Krajinovic (Srb) bt 17-Opelka (USA) 7-6(5), 6-2, 6-3; Moutet (Fra) bt Wawrinka (Sui) 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(2), 6-3; 13-Fritz (USA) bt Rodriguez (Arg) 7-6(2), 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; 10-Norrie (GBR) bt Guinard (Fra) 7-5, 6-2, 6-0; 20-Cilic (Cro) bt Balazs (Hun) 6-0, 6-1, 6-2; Baez (Arg) bt Lajovic (Srb) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Women: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Tsurenko (Ukr) 6-2, 6-0; Kovinic (Mne) bt 25-Samsonova 2-6, 6-2, 6-1; 32-Kvitova (Cze) bt Bondar (Hun) 7-6(0), 6-1; Andreescu (Can) bt Bonaventure (Bel) 3-6, 7-5, 6-0; 27-Anisimova (USA) bt Osaka (Jpn) 7-5, 6-4; 15-Azarenka bt Bogdan (Rou) 6-7(7), 7-6(1), 6-2; Parry (Fra) bt 2-Krejcikova (Cze) 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; Tomljanovic (Aus) bt 5-Kontaveit (Est) 7-6(5), 7-5; 12-Raducanu (GBR) bt Noskova (Cze) 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-1.

Fallen seeds

- Men: 17-Opelka
- Women: 2-Krejcikova, 5-Kontaveit, 25-Samsonova

Praggs stuns Yi, takes lead

Praggnanandhaa. • FILE PHOTO

SPORTS BUREAU

Continuing his superlative form, R. Praggnanandhaa stunned China's Wei Yi in 90 moves with black pieces to take a 1-0 lead in the best of four-game quarterfinals of the Chessable Masters online rapid chess tournament on Monday.

The Indian, fourth in the race to the quarterfinals on Sunday, succeeded in breaking the defence of the Chinese Grandmaster after a protracted battle involving the queens.

Praggnanandhaa's extra pawn was always going to prove decisive and it did.

Other quarterfinals: Anish Giri (Ned) leads Aryan Tari (Nor) 1-0; Ding Liren (Chn) leads Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) 1-0; Magnus Carlsen (Nor) leads David Anton (Esp) 1-0.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1, MTV & Jio TV, 6 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka: 2nd Test, day 2, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
Roland Garros 2022: Sony Ten 2 & 3 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 1.30 p.m. onwards
Women's T20 Challenge: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m.
AFC Cup 2022: Star Sports 3 & Hotstar, 4.30 p.m. & 8.30 p.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Warriors a win away from making NBA Finals

DALLAS

Stephen Curry and Andrew Wiggins starred as Golden State Warriors moved closer to the NBA Finals on Sunday with a 109-100 victory over Dallas Mavericks. The Warriors have taken a commanding 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference finals series. AFP

Liton and Mushfiqur slam centuries

DHAKA

Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das hit centuries and shared a record stand to turn the tide for Bangladesh in the second Test against Sri Lanka here on Monday after a disastrous start.

The scores: Bangladesh 277/5 in 8 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 115 batting, Liton Das 135 batting) vs Sri Lanka. AFP

Mohan helps Bangalore Warriors make final

BENGALURU

S. Mohan scored a brace as Bangalore Warriors defeated Reds United 3-0 to enter the final of the BDFA C-division league championship, here on Monday.

The result: Bangalore Warriors FC 3 (Bharath Rai 10, S. Mohan 48, 53) bt Reds United 0.

Pakistan holds India

Karthi scores first international goal

ASIA CUP HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

Defending champion India conceded a late goal to allow Pakistan walk away with a 1-1 draw in their opening Pool A match of the Asia Cup men's hockey tournament here on Monday.

India took the lead in the ninth minute through S. Karthi before Abdul Rana broke the heart of the Indians by equalising in the 59th from a penalty corner.

Pakistan had the first scoring chance in the third minute through a penalty corner, but it failed to stop the ball properly and India survived.

Seconds later, it was India's turn to secure a penalty corner but Neelam Sanjip Xess' effort was saved by Pakistan goalie Akmal Hussain.

The Indians continued to put pressure and secured two more penalty corners in the first quarter, the second of which was converted by Karthi, who scored his first international goal after getting a deflection off the stick of defender Muhammad Abdullah.

Heartbreak: India dominated possession, but a late goal allowed Pakistan to pull off a draw. • TWITTER/HOCKEY INDIA

Other results: Pool A: Japan bt Indonesia 9-0.

Pool B: Malaysia bt Oman 7-0; Korea bt Bangladesh 6-1.

Karnataka in last eight

JR. HOCKEY

SPORTS BUREAU

Karnataka entered the quarterfinals of the 12th Hockey India National junior men's championship, with a 5-0 win over Uttarakhand in a Group-H match, in Kovilpatti on Monday.

The results: Group G: HUTN 11 (B. Sathish 4, Murugesh, Naveen Raja Kumar, K. Muthukumar, Y. Anand, Sri Hari Raam, Anantharaj, J. Chandranath) bt Goans 0; Jharkhand 6 (Love Light Kujur, Kamal Chik Baraik, Prem Kerketta, Aseem Aind, Reetik Roshan Lakra, Abhishek Guria) bt Chhattisgarh 2 (Vishnu Yadav, Gurman Sahu).

H: Karnataka 5 (Kiran Kumar, G. Vishwas 3, M. A. Gowtham) bt Uttarakhand 0; Delhi 13 (Nand Kishor 4, Nitin 4, Sahil Kumar 2, Yogember Rawat, Mohammad Shadab, Naveen Bidhuri) bt Gujarat 1 (Priyansh Dighe Hemant).

Earlier results: Group C: Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu 4 (Amit Yadav, Prikshit Panchal, Abdul Qadir, Jaymasih Tuti) bt Rajasthan 0.

Jyothi betters own national mark

Men's long jump silver for Jeswin

ATHLETICS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

A few days after breaking the 20-year-old women's 100m hurdles national record in Cyprus, Jyothi Yarraji bettered it at the Loughborough international athletics meet in Britain, on Sunday.

The 22-year-old from Andhra Pradesh clocked 13.11s to win the gold ahead of Britain's Jessica Hunter (13.26). Jyothi had clocked 13.23 to win the Limassol international in Cyprus earlier this month.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu's Jeswin Aldrin who had won the Federation Cup gold with a wind-assisted 8.37m (personal best 8.26m), won the men's long jump silver with 7.82m at the Castiglione international meet at Grosseto, Italy.

Jyothi Yarraji. • FILE PHOTO

Barcelona finishes with a whimper

LA LIGA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Barcelona finished 13 points behind La Liga champion Real Madrid after ending its turbulent season with a whimper on Sunday by losing 2-0 at home to Villarreal.

Atletico Madrid secured third place by winning 2-1 away at Real Sociedad, retaining its one-point lead over Sevilla, which won 1-0 at home to Athletic Bilbao.

Athletic's defeat, combined with Villarreal's excellent victory at Camp Nou, means Villarreal beat Athletic into seventh and qualifies for the Europa Conference League.

Athletic finished eighth while Real Sociedad held onto sixth and Europa League qualification, despite its loss at home to Atletico Madrid.

At the other end of the table, Granada joined Alaves and Levante in being relegated.

The results: Elche 3 (Olaza 37, Perez 84, 90+2) bt Getafe 1 (Unal 33); Alaves 0 lost to Cadiz 1 (Lozano 76); Granada 0 drew with Espanyol 0; Osasuna 0 lost to Real Mallorca 2 (Rodriguez Diaz 47, Grenier 83).

Sevilla 1 (Mir 68) bt Athletic Bilbao 0; Real Sociedad 1 (Guridi 90+3) lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (De Paul 50, Correa 68); Barcelona 0 lost to Villarreal 2 (Pedraza 41, Moises 55).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Jones, Sudharshan star in AGORC's big win

Two goals each from Jones Antony and Sudharshan Lokur helped AGORC FC blank Bangalore Gunners FC 5-0 in the BDFA A-division league championship on Monday.

The results: A-div: Rebels FC 3 (Faizal Zafa Konan 1, 65, Mebtei Kuper 27) bt BTM FC 0; AGORC FC 5 (Jones Antony 4, 39, Surya Vanithalingam 7, Sudharshan Lokur 8, 16) bt Bangalore Gunners FC 0.

B-div: Royals FC 2 (V.M. Mohammed Anas 40, S. Seenu 52) drew with Bangalore Mars FC 2 (R. Robinson 9, Sunilkumar 61).

State TT squad for cadet and sub-junor Nationals

The Karnataka Table Tennis Association announced a 20-member player contingent for the 83rd cadet & sub-junior Nationals to be held from May 26 to June 1 in Indore.

The teams: Boys: U-15: Abhinav Murthy, Varun Kashyap, Hrishikesh Shetluur, Teshubh Dinesh; **U-13:** Teshubh Dinesh, Mohnish Nandi Nara, Seshaanth Ramaswamy, N. Aarnav.

U-11: Reyansh Jalan, Abinav Prassanna.

Girls: U-15: A. Niharika, Saanvi Mandekar, H.A. Parnavi, Neeti Agarwal.

U-13: Ayushi Godse, Vrishali Kini, Saanvi Mandekar, Kaira Baliga; **U-11:** Tanishka K.Kalabhairav, Raashi V. Rao.

Coach and manager: Boys: J. Dinesh; **girls:** Sangam Bailoor.

All four have a chance

AFC CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Numbers hold the key as the AFC Cup Group D final round league kicks off at here on Tuesday.

Gokulam Kerala will progress to the inter-zonal semifinals if it beats Bangladesh side Bashundhara Kings.

ATK Mohun Bagan, too, needs to get the better of Maldives outfit Maziya S&RC to advance for the second successive time.

All four teams are tied on three points, having one match each, and the head-to-head will be applied if the sides are deadlocked.

If both games end in a draw and there is a four-way tie, goal difference (GD) will come into the picture. ATK MB is the current leader with a GD of +2, Gokulam is second (+1) while Maziya (0) and Bashundhara (-3) follow in that order.

Gokulam, which plays the first match, needs to win match while hoping that ATK Mohun Bagan does not lose to Maziya. In the second scenario, both Gokulam and Maziya will be tied on points and the latter will qualify on having beaten the former 1-0 (head-to-head) earlier in the league.

Similarly ATK MB will hope Gokulam does not win as it has an adverse record against the latter, having lost 2-4.

BAI's cash prize to Thomas Cup-winning contingent

Recognition: The Indian squad with BAI officials. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT